

Disability Now

This month

- 6**
PARTY CONFERENCES
Disability issues at the seaside
- 11**
INTERNATIONAL
Clinton's health reforms
- 12**
LIVING
Pain (2): The clinic that teaches you to feel good
- 13**
PROFILE
Albie Sachs, the soft freedom fighter
- 16-17**
OUT AND ABOUT
If you go down to the woods today ...
- 18-19**
ARTS
Accion Mutante, Soft Vengeance, Bayeux Tapestry, tv, videos
- 21-24**
NAIDEX
DN's experts report
- 26**
PERSON TO PERSON
Parents hit back
- 29-31**
CLASSIFIEDS



Five-year-old Jenny Lowndes (right) and her family are right behind the campaign to build Scotland's first children's hospice. The appeal needs to raise £10 million. Please send cheques (made out to the *Daily Record Children's Hospice Appeal*) to the Hospice Appeal, *Daily Record*, PO Box 900, Glasgow G9 2AA, Scotland.

CHARLES DONNELLY/DAILY RECORD

Road tax reform condemned

Motoring groups fear that thousands of disabled people will be driven off the roads by last month's repeal of the Disabled Passengers' Scheme.

Michael Bruton, executive director of the Disabled Drivers' Association (DDA), is "angry and appalled" that disability groups were not consulted. He has sent protest letters to Nicholas Scott, Minister for Disabled People, Michael Portillo, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and the Department of Transport.

Under the scheme, people who have a car but need to be driven round are exempt from the £110 a year road tax.

They must be unable to walk and get either the care component of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Attendance Allowance, or the higher mobility component of the DLA. Up to 20,000 people are eligible.

Disabled passengers currently benefitting under these rules will continue to be exempt.

But since 12 October, only people on the higher mobility

component of the DLA and people who get a war pensioners' mobility supplement, are now eligible.

The DDA says elderly people will be hit hardest by the decision, passed as part of the 1992 Finance Act.

Mr Bruton said: "Elderly people will be ruled out as people aged over 65 cannot claim the higher mobility component of the DLA. We believe the scheme should be extended, rather than limited, so that everyone who becomes disabled over the age of 65 can get an exemption certificate."

David Griffiths, DN motoring expert and manager of the Mobility Information Service at Shrewsbury, said: "This is a disgraceful decision."

"It is terrible that people who become disabled too late to claim mobility allowance should be excluded from the only thing

Continued on page 9

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Labour takes on airline

The Labour Party is to take up the case of the five-year-old girl who was banned from an aeroplane because of her disability.

Zahrah Manuel was banned from an American Airlines holiday flight to New York after her mother refused to buy two tickets so her daughter could lie down (*DN*, August).

Having seen the story in *DN*, Barry Sheerman, shadow minister for disability rights, has written to the American Ambassador, the American Federal Aviation Authority and the Civil Aviation Authority, asking them to investigate.

Mr Sheerman said: "The treatment of this little girl was shameful. It is surely wrong that an airline which publicises itself as the official World Cup carriers should act in this way."

"Many disabled people who want to travel to the World Cup will be worried about what treatment they can expect from the airline."

An ambulance? That'll be £3.25 a mile, please

A 73-year-old woman was left lying on the floor for four hours while ambulance staff and social services argued over who should pay for taking her to a nursing home, it has been revealed.

The Department of Health is now being asked to spell out the rules on charging for "non-emergency" journeys.

A doctor admitted the elderly Kent woman to a nursing home after she collapsed at home alone. Under the new charging system introduced in April, the ambulance service classified her case as "non-acute" and demanded payment.

Four hours later, after the ambulance service had refused

two requests to transport the woman free, Kent social services agreed to pay the £3.25 a mile charge for the journey.

The social worker agreed to pay "because the woman had been on the floor for a considerable time and I felt that the issue of payment should not prevent her admission."

A report on the incident has been sent to the Association of

Continued on page 9

DO YOU PAY?

Are you charged for ambulances in your area? Please send the details to *DN*, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EQ.

Heath backs special needs kids

Former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath has backed a national campaign that aims to raise public awareness of the rights of special needs children.

The Wrexham-based group GOALS wrote to MPs from all parties about the lack of therapeutic help available for these children.

It received 25 replies, including a letter from Sir Edward's private secretary who said the former Premier had spoken to

the Department of Education about the matter.

The letter said: "Clearly, children with special needs often require speech, occupational and physiotherapy to reach their full potential.

"Sir Edward shares your belief that the Government has a moral obligation to provide the resources for these services, and by providing such services it will save money in the long term. Please be assured that he

will continue to argue for the fair treatment of those with special needs at every opportunity."

GOALS organiser Ken Mack said: "We have had a very positive response to our campaign, and are very grateful for Mr Heath's words of encouragement."

GOALS, 19 Crathie Place, Rhosddu, Wrexham, Clwyd, LL11 2HB, tel: (0978) 358398.



Fearless Colin Corbett (above, underneath) enjoyed the jump of a lifetime, raising £250 for St Cecilia's Cheshire Home in Bromley, Kent.

Colin, who has multiple sclerosis, took part in a 12,000 ft free-fall parachute jump at Headcorn Parachute Club in Kent.

The jump, organised by the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, meant Colin had the nerve-jangling experience of plunging at speeds of over 120 mph before his parachute opened.

"It was extremely cold up there, but the actual drop was lovely and smooth," he said. "I was securely strapped to a free-fall instructor and never felt frightened."



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Roundabout

Disability Now

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Russia in crisis

Russia's ten million disabled people saw their hopes of a better life go up in flames during the bloody attack on the White House on 3-4 October.

Vital documents relating to proposed laws on social support, rehabilitation and employment of disabled people were lost during the onslaught by President Yeltsin's troops.

In a special dispatch to *DN*, *Russkii Invalid* editor Nikolai Zhukov said: "With all these documents gone up in flames, and some of those who had worked on the Social Welfare Law in prison, the signing of the new law looks a long way off. While a new Parliament is elected, another committee formed, new documents produced - at least another year will pass by."

"The events in Moscow which left over 150 people dead and 600 wounded, highlight not only the political problems of the day but the economic ones too. The majority of demonstrators supporting Parliament were elderly people and war veterans, those who have led difficult lives and are now living in poverty."

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT
NEXT MONTH**



Sue Elsegood goes Underground in one of only 40 fully accessible stations SEAN SMITH/THE GUARDIAN

Down the Tube at last

Disability groups have welcomed London Underground's decision to open up the tube system to wheelchair users for the first time in 30 years.

Wheelchair-users had been banned from deep-level sections of the Tube since the 1960s because, it was said, they would be a safety risk if a fire broke out or a train got stuck in a tunnel. Now campaigners have persuaded authorities to lift the ban.

Guidelines on how to help

and advise wheelchair users have been issued to staff, a free guide to each station called *Access to the Underground* is available at ticket offices, and a stairlift has been installed at Hounslow West station.

London Underground's development director, David Bailey, said: "Wheelchair users are being given the choice about when and where they can travel. But we realise there is a long way to go before achieving a step free, accessible system."

Keith Armstrong, chairman of Dial-a-Ride and Taxicard Users (DaRT), said: "This is a very important and welcome change which will enable the disability community to fulfil their roll as citizens in society."

"But even with the lifting of these restrictions, the Tube will be not be fully accessible to wheelchair users. Only 40 out of 273 stations have step-free access. We need to overcome the problems so all stations are made fully accessible."

'Split charities in two' says report

Radical proposals to strip Britain's voluntary organisations of their charitable status and the automatic tax concessions that go with it have been

slammed by disability groups. The proposals, put forward in a report* by the Centre for Research and Innovation in Social Policy and Practice,

would mean splitting voluntary groups into two categories.

The first would be non-profit service providers fully funded by the state. The second would concentrate on campaigning and get no state subsidies, only donations.

Ann Robinson, chief executive of the Spastics Society, said: "Voluntary organisations have extensive experience both of providing high quality services and of campaigning for social change."

"These proposals would split us in two - to the detriment of both major activities and, most importantly, to the detriment of all the people we exist to support."

**Voluntary Action*, £5.50, c/o Roy Evans, 10 Heathmans Road, London SW6 4TJ.

DLF cuts

The Disabled Living Foundation (DLF) is cutting staff to head off a financial crisis.

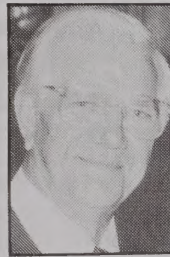
Five employees, including two library staff, have already been made redundant. Two more will go by next summer.

DLF director Charles Moore blamed the cuts on the charity's £150,000 deficit, a drop in income and plans by the Department of Health to change its Section 64 grant system. The DLF fears that proposals to give grants to projects, rather than core services, would mean a big drop in its income.

"We would have had a financial crisis on our hands if we had not taken this drastic action," said Mr Moore. "We can't afford to keep the library and may give our collection of books to a library or charity and buy in the information we need."

Jack hears

Lord Jack Ashley (right), is beginning to hear again after having a cochlear implant at University College Hospital, London.



"I feel tremendous," he said. "My ability to comprehend sounds has improved enormously and I am starting to follow what some people say without lip-reading. It was magical to hear my grandson speak for the first time."

Cochlear implants, which are placed in the inner ear to electrically stimulate the hearing nerves, are still rare. Only 250 operations have been carried out since 1982.

Lord Ashley is now campaigning for enough money to be made available so that everyone who would benefit can have one.

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IVB attacks creating a 'climate of fear'

Government attacks on Invalidity Benefit (IVB) are creating a "climate of fear" among claimants, according to a new report published last month.

*Worried Sick**, by Disability Alliance and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR), was based on a survey of 334 claimants.

Instead of being too lenient - as the Government claims - the system is often too harshly operated by Benefits Agency staff.

Eighty per cent of claimants

questioned said GPs sometimes or often refuse sick notes to people who advisers consider unfit for work.

Medical examinations, which only lasted ten minutes on average, were often stressful and painful, with many relevant factors being missed by doctors.

The report includes calls for better training of adjudication officers and regular monitoring of decisions; more time for medical examinations; and more information to be provided to claimants about appeal rights.

Mary Holland, deputy director of RADAR, said: "We want to work with the Government in increasing the effectiveness of IVB, but we require a considered review of welfare spending involving all interested parties, rather than a hastily put together, piecemeal approach such as that currently being put forward by the Government."

*£2.50, Disability Alliance, Universal House, 88-94 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA.



Jacqueline James from York (above) is the 1993 winner of the £1,000 Frink Award, which honours visually impaired women or those who work with them. Ms James, 31, is a weaver, specialising in rugs and wall hangings.

JUST SAY NO UPDATE

The 83 DN readers who responded to our "Just Say No" campaign against cuts to IVB are to each get a personal reply from officials in Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley's private office. D(ecision)-D(ay) for IVB will be the Budget on 30 November. Watch this space.

All aboard the low-floor bus

Richard Armitage reports

Three low-floor, accessible buses were on show at last month's Coach and Bus '93, the industry's flagship trade fair. Two years ago there were none.

This small breakthrough coincided with the publication of a new survey showing that most bus operators would switch to low-floor buses - given Government help.

*Low floor buses: the operator's view** was compiled by London's Dial-a-Ride and Taxicard User's Association (DaRT) for the Buses For All campaign. Of the 150 operators with fleets of 50 vehicles or more who were contacted, 90 responded.

Asked whether they were thinking of buying low-floor buses, only 39 per cent said yes. Asked if they would go low-floor if there was Government support to meet the price difference between existing vehicles and the new low-floor designs, the figure shot up to 63 per cent. Over half agreed that low-floor buses were the transport of the future.

DN reader Andy Meadows travelled from Essex to Birmingham's NEC to take a look into the future at the Coach and Bus '93 show.

First for inspection was the the Pathfinder low-floor bus, one of 68 due to go into service in London after Christmas. "I prefer to board at the front, to be able to talk to the driver," he said. "But access on these is through the middle doors."

This all-British newcomer to the market was equipped with a powered ramp at the middle doors, as was the front entrance to Neoplan's accessible bus,

now operating in Merseyside.

On the Scania and East Lancs Coachbuilders' model, Mr Meadows' wheelchair could just squeeze past the driver, and his exit to the middle doors

demand [for accessible buses]. But if you give us the money, we'll build it."

Operators in other European countries (especially Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark)



Andy Meadows gets on board the Pathfinder

RICHARD ARMITAGE

was blocked by a narrow gangway. Sales manager Peter Crawford said it was a small matter to widen the gap, but his admission that there are no disabled people on his design team was not encouraging.

Mr Meadows was able to use his experience as a coach driver when quizzing exhibitors at the show, most of whom had nothing to offer disabled people.

(The Department of Transport's Disability Unit was a notable exception. It released two new videos: one for bus and coach drivers on disability awareness, and the other for bus operators on the advantages of low-floor buses.)

The attitude of Kevin Taylor, Plaxton's coach sales manager was typical: "There's no

have already put low-floor buses into daily service. The DaRT survey shows that operators' concerns over the initial costs of buying the buses, and the unknown costs of maintenance and spares, are preventing progress in the UK.

Buses For All concludes that to get these buses on the road, the Government will have to provide financial help.

But low-floor buses still need to prove themselves in UK operating conditions. Next year's trials of the 68 vehicles in London, and five in Tyne and Wear, will be a crucial stage in the marathon slog to get accessible buses running regularly on Britain's roads.

*£3.50, tel: 071-482 2325.

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The Law Society, which represents 60,000 solicitors in England and Wales, passed a new rule last month forbidding discrimination within the profession on the grounds of disability, race, gender or sexual orientation.

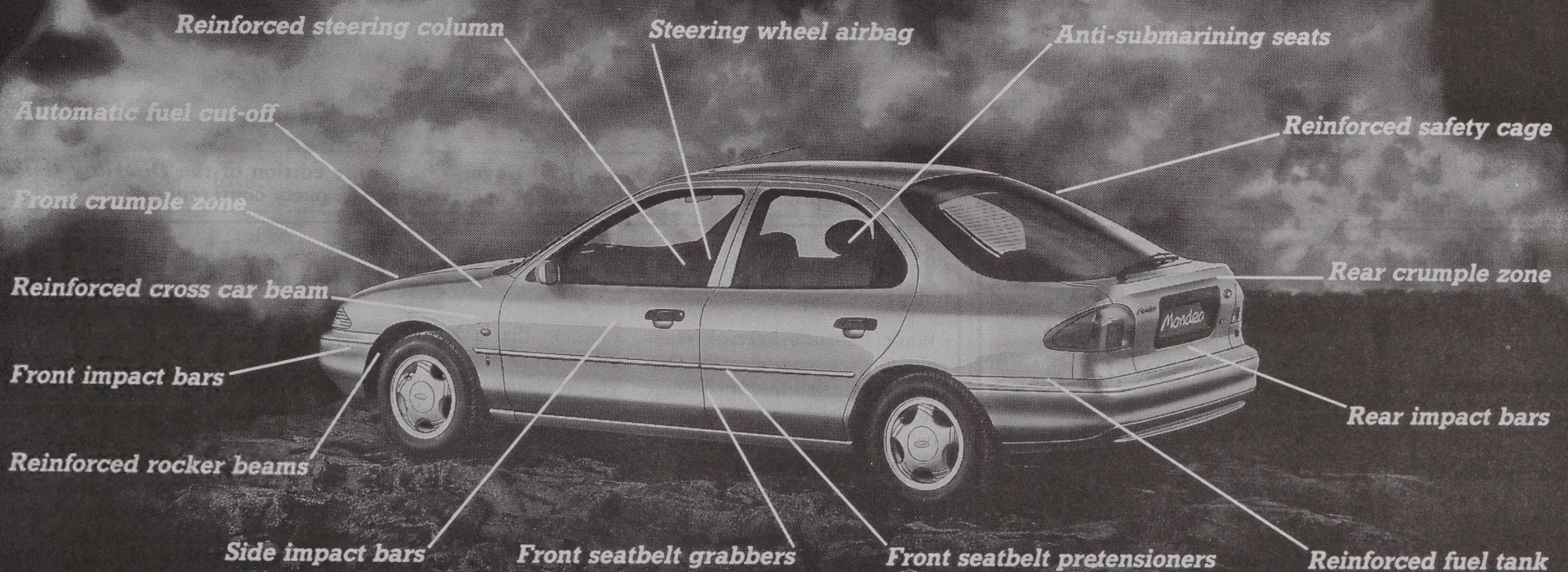
Society President Roger Pannone said: "I attach special importance to our profession being in the forefront of efforts to eliminate discrimination and I hope that once these proposals are implemented, they will lead to a fairer and better profession which is open to all."

Firms will be required to introduce equal opportunities policies.

Malinga made mayor

Joshua Malinga, chairperson of Disabled People's International, has become Mayor of Bulawayo in Zimbabwe. Mr Malinga is the first disabled person to hold the office.

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Simon Crompton reports

The Liberal Democrats' conference in Torquay was bound to be portrayed by critics as the latest act in the continuing tragedy of a party that could not make up its mind. The discussions on health, social and civil rights issues did little to defy expectations.

First, there was the controversial proposal that the contributory principle for state pensions be scrapped, and the pension uprated in line with prices rather than earnings, targeting extra help at those most in need.

Despite a proposed amendment from the leadership to restore the link with earnings, conference supported the paper. But it made it clear that this was "a basis for further consultation". The motion passed also called for improvements to Disability Living Allowance, a new carers' benefit and legislation to outlaw age discrimination.

Firm on anti-discrimination

Anti-discrimination legislation was firmly endorsed by Liz Lynne, the party's Health and Community Care Spokesperson, at a session on personal social services.

But her comments on equality were undercut by Debbie Baird, a visually impaired delegate from Watford, who had been unable to read the party's

Lib Dems agonise over policy

policy before the meeting because it was not on tape.

And as Ms Lynne spoke, two delegates in wheelchairs tried to find space in the overcrowded room. Both had been delayed as stewards struggled to find a way down to the apparently inaccessible basement room. "On our way out we discovered there was a lift that took us all the way", said Audrey Steele.

At the same meeting, Bernard Donoghue, campaigns officer of the charity Sense, questioned whether disabled people and carers were genuinely consulted about community care plans, and warned of the dangers of a new kind of "ghettoisation" as people were transferred from institutions into the community. "Have we just replaced one form of isolation in the community with a smaller scale one now?"

Money worries

The extent to which service users should have control over the money allocated to provide services for them was another moot point.

Peter Bryden, chair of the Liberal Democrats' personal social services working group, pondered: "Should you empower people by giving them the money to allow them to make choices? Is it right that you give grannies money so that they tuck it under the bed for a rainy day, or for the children who abandoned them years ago, or should you make sure it is used for heating, transport and so on?"

Gordon Lishman of Age

Concern was "appalled by this stereotype". "Let's not assume that people by virtue of their age are less capable of managing themselves."

In the main conference, delegates backed genetic engineering research aimed at individuals, but not at offspring. Liz Lynne said: "We reject wholeheartedly any use of genetic engineering of humans for reasons other than gene therapy. Therefore we reject its use in selective breeding of humans."

At a fringe meeting organised by the Alzheimer's Disease Society, Caring Costs and the Carers' National Association, Liz Lynne also called for better support for carers. "Deprived of respite care or day centres,

they will not be able to cope."

For the party's Disability Association, the main concerns were access in and around the Riviera Centre, and getting disability issues firmly embedded in party policy.

Access a problem

Pat Atherton and Beth Gee had visited Torquay three months before to check access. But now they were dismayed to find major parts of their advice had been omitted from the agenda. Problems included a lift with limited access, the siting of wheelchair space right at the back of the auditorium, and no ramp on the podium. An *ad hoc* metal ramp proved too steep for wheelchairs.

The Association blames the

venue's administrators, fire regulations and contractors, rather than the party.

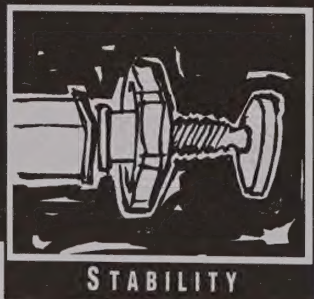
Ms Gee is now on the conference committee, and will be battling for easy access at future events. She wants to go disability issues on the agenda by joining the party's policy committee. At the moment the group does not have status as an associated organisation of the party, and therefore has no powers to put down motions for debate at conference.

But it will have input into the party's new policy working group on disability. The group, which will work out how disability issues can be fed into every aspect of the party's policies, is to report before the next conference.



Lib Dem leader Paddy Ashdown (left) fingers the braille edition of the *Disability Daily*, a newspaper produced by disability groups specially for the party conferences

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DN 11/93

Labour talks tough on disability

While Labour's internal wranglings over one member one vote dominated media coverage from the Brighton Centre, VAT on fuel and the Conservative onslaught on benefits were the recurrent themes in the conference hall.

People with disabilities made their own powerful contributions on the subjects during the debates on the economy and the health service.

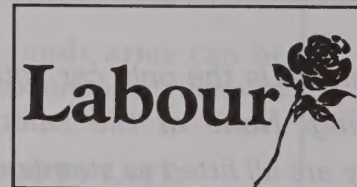
Labour's Shadow Health Secretary David Blunkett ended the health debate with a warning that the Government threatened to inflict prescription charges on those who could least afford them - for example those who needed skin creams for long-term conditions.

"We are not only being charged when we become ill," Mr Blunkett said. "We are also being charged to be made ill, because that is what VAT on fuel bills will mean."

Tony Jewell of the Socialist Health Association, and Margaret Munn from Cunningham North Constituency Labour Party (CLP), proposed a

motion that a Labour government must allocate resources so as to ensure families caring for infirm people were "adequately re-imbursed" for their caring role, including compensation for lost earnings and free, regular, respite care.

Ms Munn told the conference that one week's respite care now cost £300 - "You could send your granny to



Benidorm for less."

But Mr Blunkett succeeded in having the motion withdrawn. "I am committed to public spending, but the ideas of doubling the health service budget in this way hadn't occurred to me," he said.

In the economy debate, Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown made a tub-thumping attack on fuel tax: "When nine million pensioners on income

support are to be hit by VAT on fuel, pensioner poverty in 1993 is not just an evil, it is a crime."

Potential denied

In the debate on rights at work, Susan Watson from Battersea CLP made a stand on behalf of disabled people, which gained her one of the most rousing receptions of the conference. Over 60 per cent of disabled people in the country were unemployed, she said. She was the exception - she had a job and a roof over her head. "But I have first hand experience of how hard it is to achieve in British society."

Two thirds of disabled people lived below the poverty line, and those who were working often earned a very low wage. "If Britain had a national minimum wage, along with a comprehensive equal opportunities policy, disabled people would be more likely to achieve their potential."

In the debate on fair taxes and benefits, Beryl Urquhart of Bridgwater CLP proposed a



CONSERVATIVE

The Conservative rally at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool gave few clues about how much Government changes to benefits and tax will affect people with disabilities.

Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley said: "The number of people on Invalidity Benefit has trebled, while the nation's health has been improving. So I am devising a reliable medical test of fitness to work. IVB is intended for those who are not fit for work, and not those who are." The audience loved it.

Brian Lamb, head of campaigns at the Spastics Society, said Mr Lilley's speech "shed no light on what the Government is really going to do about IVB, who's going to lose out and by how much."

VAT man

Chancellor Kenneth Clarke said two thirds of the £36 million raised by VAT on fuel would come from households with an income of over £12,000. "I say that no sensible person should condemn the tax until they have seen our package of help for those people least able to pay."

Despite the usual efforts of conference organisers to smother dissent, one or two delegates were bold enough to speak out.

Ann Addison from South Northamptonshire was worried about the reduction in the number of social services local authorities could provide, and the effect this would have on

controversial motion. It called on a future Labour government to link pensioners' entitlement to a cost-of-living index, taking into account the special heating and other needs of older people, and to equalise the retirement age at 60. Despite a recommendation from the national executive to withdraw this motion, it was passed.

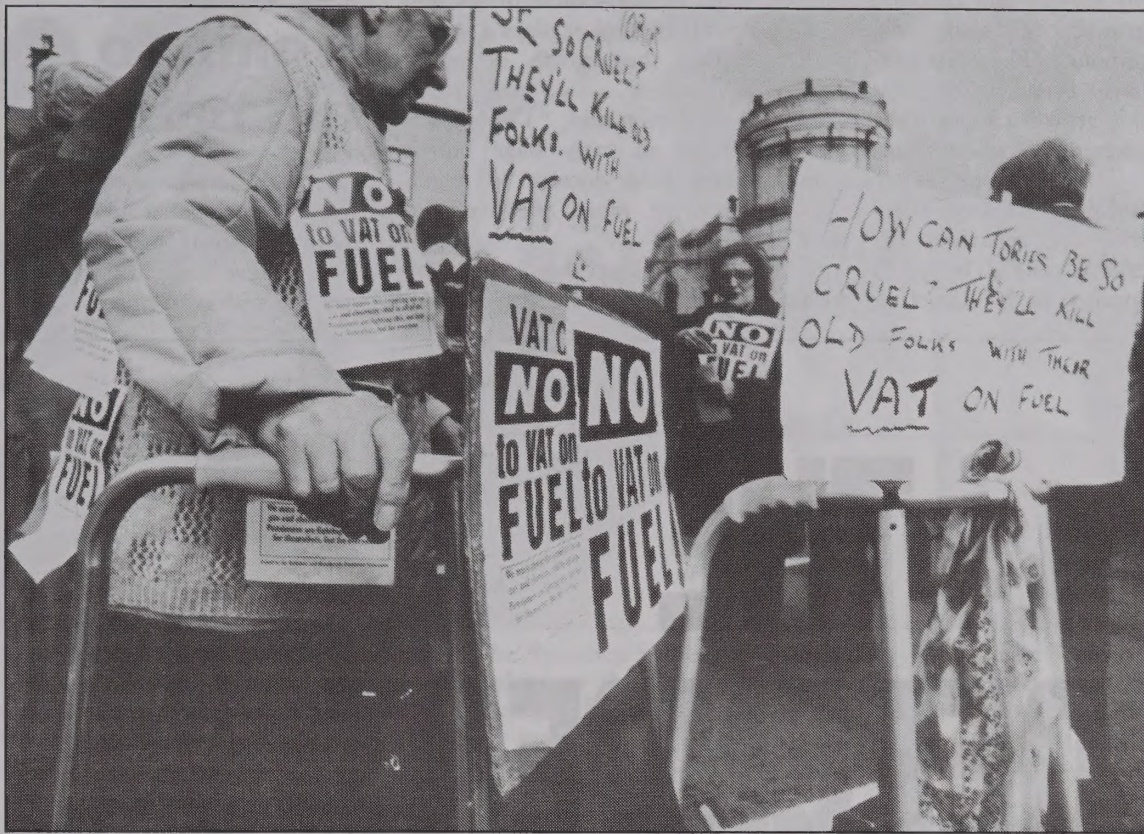
Donald Dewar, Labour's Shadow Social Security Secretary, also attacked the "madness" which had brought about the imposition of VAT on fuel. It was, he said, a "cruelly regressive tax designed to victimise old people and families".

Nothing but cuts

Michael Barrett, of the National League of the Blind and Disabled (NLBD), slammed the Government for parading itself as looking after disabled people. "Those of us working in those areas know that since 1986 we have seen nothing but cuts in benefits for people who want to live with dignity and less anxiety."

Mr Barrett was representing the NLBD for the last time at a Labour conference. "I think I've been successful in keeping the disability voice heard," he

Cold comfort from Tories



Pensioners demonstrate outside the Tory conference

PHILIP MEECH/THE INDEPENDENT

"the fabric of our society".

In the health debate, Colette Jones, from County Down, said that while services had improved over the last year in Northern Ireland, there were still gaps - particularly the need for respite care for over-19s with learning disabilities.

And the Conservative Disability Group told *DN* that it was concerned about the group of disabled people just above the cut-off point for the proposed VAT compensation package. Director Malcolm Dunlop said this would be raised at a meeting with the Chancellor.

Formed in 1989, the Disability Group now has 372 members, with up to 40 new ones joining at each conference.

Hard line on employers

According to Mr Dunlop, a recent meeting with Lord Ullswater, former Under Secretary for Employment, yielded a pledge that civil servants would be instructed to be more hard line on employers who did not fulfil their three per cent quota, and that offenders would be prosecuted.

The Group believes IVB should only be given on medi-

cal grounds. "At the moment it's being handed out for clinical reasons," said Mr Dunlop.

However, the Group's advocacy of anti-discrimination legislation leaves it at odds with the official Government line that discrimination should be ended through encouragement and incentives. "We're in favour of legislation if it's thought through very clearly," said Mr Dunlop. He "couldn't stand", however, the Bill proposed by Alf Morris because it failed to recognise the input of employers and the real problems of making all buildings

accessible for disabled people.

Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott attended meetings of the Group and the Royal National Institute for Deaf People. Commons Leader Tony Newton chaired a National Autistic Society meeting, revealing that his cousin is autistic. At the meeting, Mahip Vaish, who has Asperger's syndrome, described his experiences of being "kicked around" by employers. He asked employers to try to understand the simple situations which autistic people found very difficult to cope with.

Beggars can't be choosers

Disabled delegate Margaret McConochie from Penrith and the Border wanted to see a comprehensive disability benefit instead of separate social security payments. There was an element of stigma in having to apply for separate benefits, she said. "I don't like being classed, because of social security, with some beggar who won't work."

Zelda Dunlop, a scooter user, was concerned about access in the Winter Gardens. The Conservative Disability Group had several complaints from people who could not find the toilet for disabled people, and when they did they had to find the key - which was kept at one of the most crowded cafes in the complex. "It's really embarrassing having to ask," said Mrs Dunlop. She had also found the lifts down to the conference floor rather small for wheelchairs.



Donald Dewar

told *DN*. Over 13 years, disabled people had developed a wider political voice. "We are now getting much more from the rank and file about employment issues for disabled people." He saw the main issues as equalisation of opportunity, independent living and anti-discrimination legislation.

Like last year, a disability group within the Labour Party was highly conspicuous by its absence. Labour is the only party without a group, but it emerged that things may be different by next year.

Mr Barrett helped establish the Socialist Disability Action Group in the mid-'80s. It held several fringe meetings, pressing for better access at confer-

ence venues. But the group was wound up in 1990 because his union was having to take all the responsibility for running it, said Mr Barrett. "We need a disability group in the Labour party, but I don't see the League as running it - it has to come from the grass roots."

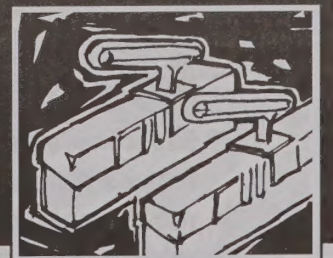
Facilities impressive

This was the first national conference for George Johnson of Clwyd North West CLP and he was impressed with the facilities. Toilets were accessible and there was wheelchair access up to the microphone in the conference hall. Wheelchair access to fringe meeting venues was clearly marked in the conference programme.

The Disability Alliance/Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) meeting on the Government's plans for IVB attracted Professor Ruth Lister of Bradford University and the Commission on Social Justice, and Donald Dewar, as speakers.

"We had an amazing turnout of around 80 people," said Mary Holland, deputy director of RADAR, "so it's obvious that people are very worried about what's happening."

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DN 11/93

Scientists find two new genes

Scientists have isolated two genes, thought to play a major role in the development of breast cancer.

Dr David Manning of the Tenovus Cancer Research Centre, Cardiff, and Dr Chris Green, of Liverpool University, identified the genes pMGTI

and pLIVI during studies into the role of female hormones in breast cancer.

The hormone oestrogen stimulates breast cells to multiply rapidly and encourages the growth of some types of tumour. The research team have been investigating how this growth can be reversed by oestrogen-blocking drugs.

The genes are switched on and off by oestrogen and influence the behaviour of breast cancer cells. The pLIVI gene appears to be associated with

the spread of cancer cells from the breast tissue to lymph glands, bones and other parts of the body.

The gene pMGTI is activated by anti-cancer drugs, and scientists think it plays a role in halting the growth of breast tumours.

Dr Green said: "The work is still at an early stage but it might help doctors to match treatment more effectively to patients."

A spokesperson for the Breast Cancer Campaign said:

"We believe this is an important medical development, but it is early days yet."

Artificial womb to aid babies

Doctors working on an artificial womb, which would allow more premature babies to survive, believe it could be in clinical use within five years.

A British-Japanese team, led by Professor Mark Hanson of University College London, and Dr Kozima Shiro, of Tokyo University, has been working on the project for ten years.

The system involves placing the foetus in a bath of saline fluids mixed with some proteins, which is designed to be as close as possible to the amniotic fluid found in a womb.

Tubes are inserted into the umbilical arteries and veins and blood is pumped from the foetus through an artificial lung, supplying it with oxygen.

The lung also removes carbon dioxide, while a dialysis unit maintains the balance of chemicals in the blood. Glucose is supplied as a nutrient.

Dr Peter Moore, of University College, London, said the system was being developed for babies born prematurely with diaphragmatic hernias, where the diaphragm is torn.

He said: "At present these babies cannot breathe and so cannot survive. If the artificial womb proves successful it could save their lives."

"We will continue developing the system with the aim of using it on even more premature babies. It will not be in clinical use for the next five years but we feel the potential is enormous."

Helping the brain deal with pain

Scientists have discovered how the brain deals with pain and believe their work may improve the treatment of many conditions, including arthritis and rheumatism.

Dr Anthony Jones and colleagues at the Manchester Rheumatism Centre, used a new imaging technique to look at the brain's frontal lobes.

It has long been known that natural painkilling substances called endorphins played a crucial role in suppressing pain, but how they acted on the brain had not been understood.

Dr Jones broke new ground by finding receptors in the frontal lobes which endorphins latch on to. The endorphins dampen pain by activating the receptors for a time before falling off. It is hoped scientists will find drugs to make the endorphins' painkilling effects last longer.

The team also discovered that pain from different conditions, such as arthritis or nerve damage, triggers different nerve responses in the brain. Doctors hope the discovery might help patients find the best painkillers for their condition.

Dr Jones said: "It may improve the treatment of conditions by allowing doctors to assess a person's response to pain and work out what painkillers would be most effective on them."

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IN BRIEF

Fears about ageing

Many older disabled people are anxious about the future and feel ageing threatens their independence, according to a report by Gerry Zarb of the Policy Studies Institute and Mike Oliver of the University of Greenwich.

About 60 per cent of the 200 older disabled people who responded said there were important services, such as home help, adaptations and financial advice, which they were not getting.

Mike Oliver said: "Several people described ageing being like the onset of a second disability. The report shows that the unresponsiveness of professionals and service providers to these people's needs greatly threatens their independence."

Ageing with a Disability, £10, tel: 081-316 8000.

Bright sparks

Eastern Electricity is the first regional electricity company to support the Royal National Institute for Deaf People's "Louder Than Words" charter, which encourages organisations to meet deaf people's needs.

The company's three-year programme will include installing induction loop systems, minicomms, textphones and Typetalk, as well as training some staff to use sign language.

Inventors honoured

Remap, the charity which designs technical aids for disabled people, had its 1993 awards presented by inventor, professor and tv personality Heinz Wolff in September.

The first prize of £250 went to Remap's Kent East branch for a device that pulls disabled people up steps on to a bus.

Other winning inventions included a "wheelchair width reducer" which enables you to swap your usual wheels for smaller ones to get through narrow doorways, a duvet dropper, and a rising toilet seat.

Remap, tel: (0732) 883818.

Pain in the back?

Have you got a bad back or do you get sore lifting the person you care for? Two new guides from the National Back Pain Association (NBPA) might help. *Back Pain: A Handbook for Sufferers* tells you about the treatments available. *A Carer's Guide* explains the best ways to move and handle people.

Handbook, £4.99, *Carer's Guide*, £1.50. Tel: 081-977 5474.

Correction

Spelling Out Your Wishes: How to Make and Change a Will (DN, July) is available in braille and print from the National Library for the Blind, Cromwell Road, Bredbury, Stockport, SK6 2SG, tel: 061-494 0217.



Joan Williams and Robert Hancock of The Spastics Society slip-slide away with Jodie Wass of Meldreth Manor School in Cambridgeshire at the opening of the Learning Curves sensory adventure playground. The 150m of raised platforms and pathways include sculptures, a theatre, giant musical instruments and a waterfall.

Pat Saunders, man of action, dies

Ann Darnbrough writes

Pat Saunders, veteran disability campaigner, has died aged 73.

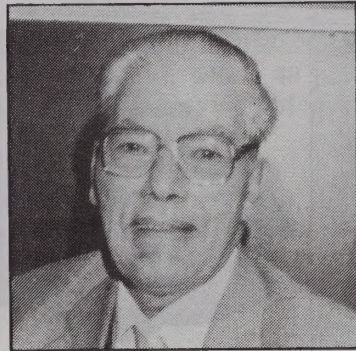
In 1975, Pat's active life in the forces (first in the army and then in the navy) was brought to an abrupt end when he contracted Guillaun-Barre Syndrome.

Despite this setback, Pat, always a man of action, lost no time in taking on an even more vigorous lifestyle: one devoted to fighting for services for disabled people.

His main concern was to ensure that disabled people got the information they needed, founding the Portsmouth (later Hampshire) Disability Information Advice Line (DIAL) and the Havant District Association for the Disabled.

As an expert communicator, Pat believed that it was important to reach as wide an audi-

ence as possible and he spoke at many conferences throughout the UK. He was also a prolific writer, producing a lively column in the *Portsmouth Evening News*, and for a number of years he was assistant editor of



Pat Saunders
THE NEWS PORTSMOUTH

Handicapped Living (later *Practical Caring*). He also produced the booklet, *All Write Now*, which advised other disabled

people how to write in to local papers, and the *A-Z of Disability*, a handy reference book.

Pat was never short of practical ideas, which included some useful inventions. One of these, the Pat Saunders straw, has been of enormous practical help to many disabled people.

Pat (who is survived by his wife and a son), will be greatly missed by the many friends and acquaintances who valued his ideas and the humour he brought to all he did.

Above all, he was unfailingly supportive of other people's ideas and I shall remember him especially for this.

Road tax reform

Continued from page 1

that keeps them on the road."

Ron Salt, secretary of the Disabled Motorists' Federation, said: "I can't condone this decision because I think it was made to cut costs. But I recognise that there has been some abuse of the scheme by people who claim the exemption for their family but rarely travel in

the car themselves."

A spokesperson for the Department of Transport said: "The Disabled Passengers' Scheme was repealed because the Treasury decided self assessment was not an adequate way of deciding whether someone should get an exemption certificate, and the Chancellor felt new procedures would be disproportionately expensive and intrusive."

Ambulance charges

Continued from page 1

County Council's (ACC) social services committee. The ACC is concerned that there appears to be "an emerging custom and practice since 1 April of ambulance services improperly seeking to charge local authority social services departments."

It is understood the problem has arisen in six other authorities in the South East, but the ACC is refusing to name them.

Michael Campbell, ACC social services under-secretary, said: "This situation is unacceptable. We want clarification from the Department of Health of how the charges system is supposed to work."

A Department of Health spokesperson said: "The situation in Kent was unacceptable. Ambulances should treat people first and ask for payment later. Who pays the charge depends on who has a contract with the service."

Councils dodge duties

Councils are not providing disabled people with the services they are legally obliged to, according to a new report by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR). The charity has collected over 500 complaints since July last year.

RADAR is in the middle of a two year project to enforce section two of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.

RADAR found that liaison between agencies was often left to the disabled person. And the introduction of charges for care has forced many people to stop the service. Many people were anxious about complaining, fearing they might lose the services they had.

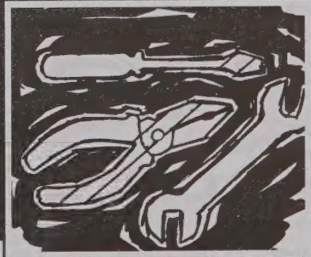
Disabled People Have Rights, £3, tel: 071-637 5400.

Student focus

A high-ranking educational body is investigating services and facilities for students with learning difficulties.

The three-year review is being carried out by the Further Education Funding Council, a Government-appointed body. The learning difficulties committee has been asked to come up with clear definitions of students with learning difficulties, determine how they will be assessed and advise how money can be best spent.

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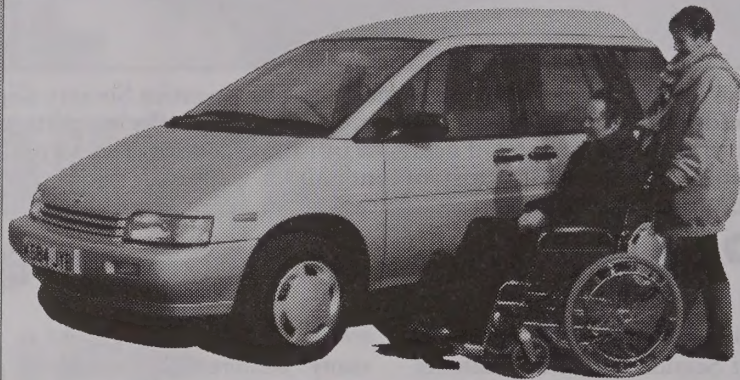


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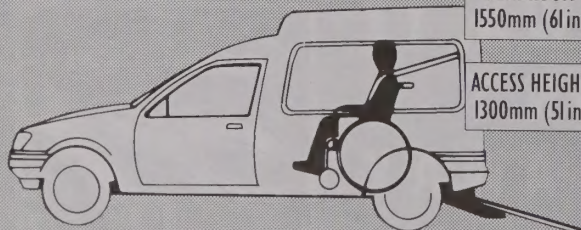
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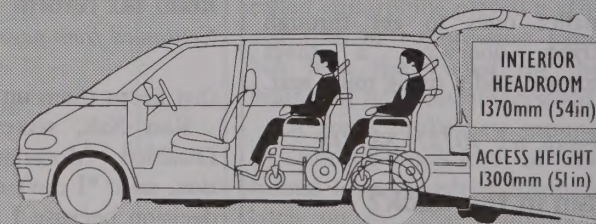
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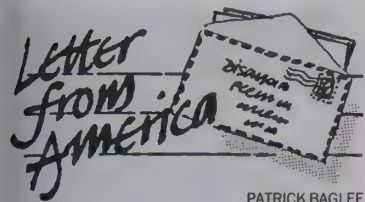


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PATRICK BAGLEE

Health care reforms: a New Deal?



The plans look good. Now we have to get them working, says Diane Coleman

Dear Friends,
You haven't heard from me since March, an indication of how busy the last months have been here.

In fact, after much thought and regret, I've decided that the demands on my time won't allow me to continue any longer as your correspondent. I'll explain more later.

On to the news. 26 July marked the third anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). While many celebrated, some marched and spoke at rallies, a few of us honoured the day by demonstrating against ADA violators.

One of the most popular ADA protests is the Restaurant Action. Four or five people, some of whom have mobility impairments, set up a dining table on the public sidewalk outside an inaccessible restaurant. One of the protesters dresses up as a waiter or waitress, enters the restaurant, orders food for the others, and serves it to them at the table outside. This protest involves no illegal conduct or civil disobedience, and the media "eat it up".

In Nashville, Tennessee, an ADAPT (American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today) ADA anniversary protest against an inaccessible Japanese steak house got a commitment to build a new ramp at the front entrance.

'Jerry's kids' create

Only six weeks later, Jerry's Orphans and other activists in cities across the country demonstrated against the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon, which many characterise as a fundraising "pity party". (The name "Jerry's Orphans" is a response to Lewis' claim that all those with neuro-muscular disabilities are "Jerry's Kids", perpetuating the stereotype that disabled people are eternal children.) Lewis has also repeatedly asserted that a person with a disability is only "half a person" since they cannot, for example, run down a hallway with him.

Inspired in part by your recent contribution to the demise of the British disability telethon, activists in at least ten major cities protested at tv stations broadcasting the telethon, and at the offices of major corporate sponsors which get free advertising at our expense during the event.

We are having an effect. Lewis is being forced to discuss the issue on tv and in print.

Another major item of news is that President Clinton has announced his health care reform proposals. At present, 37 million Americans have no

insurance and another 22 million lack adequate cover.

If enacted by Congress, the Clinton plan would provide insurance cover for all,

disability community as violating the ADA.

The rankings have been revised, but the disability community remains concerned



Things looking up? In Boston City Hospital, where 40 per cent of patients have no health insurance, David Maloney watches President Clinton announcing his plans

AP

including a basic, standardised benefit package.

According to a draft of the President's proposals, "no health plan may deny enrolment to any applicants because of the health, employment or financial risk, nor may they charge some patients more than others because of age, medical condition or other factors related to risk."

"Employed people who buy care would be able to get tax credit for 50% of the cost"

Disability advocacy groups are expressing strong support for the basic proposal.

However, they are still concerned about plans to establish a national health care budget to control costs, especially a possible trend towards health care rationing, which exists under Medicaid in Oregon. The Oregon plan ranks over 700 treatments and conditions and, based on the state's health care budget, decides which procedures will be funded.

Originally, the rankings were based on surveys of public opinion about the perceived quality of life with various health conditions. These were successfully challenged by the

that decisions on access to health care will be based on common misconceptions and prejudices regarding the value of life with disability.

Long term care

The provision of long term care is particularly important.

Currently, federal Medicaid law requires that every state pays for nursing home services, but leaves the states free to choose whether they will cover home and community based services.

As you have read in my past letters, this inequity has been the basis of numerous protests by ADAPT. In fact, on 28 September, 97 ADAPT activists were arrested at a national convention of nursing home industry lobbyists.

According to a draft of the Clinton reform plan, "The American Health Security Act increases federal authority to provide home and community based services to individuals with severe disabilities without regard to income or age ..."

The plan would phase in a requirement that every state provides, as a minimum, personal assistance services to people meeting these criteria: * requires personal assistance, stand-by assistance, supervision or cues to perform three or more of these activities of daily living (ADLs): eating, dressing, bathing, toileting and

transferring in and out of bed * presents evidence of severe cognitive or mental impairment as shown by a specific score on a standard test

* has severe or profound mental retardation as indicated on a standard intelligence test.

States would have to provide standardised assessment and an individual plan of care to each eligible person. Personal assistance services, both agency-administered and consumer-directed, would be available.

States would also have the option to provide any other community-based long term care service, such as case management, home maker and chore assistance, home modifications and respite services, not otherwise covered.

Federal funding for personal assistance services would be phased in from 1996 to 2000, with a sliding scale for co-payments by disabled people or their families. The programme would be subject to the national budget ceiling.

Employed people who buy personal care and personal assistance services would be able to get tax credit for 50 per cent of their costs, up to a maximum of \$15,000 a year.

Disability advocates have a lot of work to do to ensure that planning and implementation at federal and state level address our issues adequately.

This brings me to my reason for bidding you a fond farewell.

For nearly three years, I have been employed as co-

director of an assistive technology service agency, while advocating and organising in my spare time. I have been unable to get government or private grants so that I could quit the job. Yet grants pour into local disability non-profit organisations run by non-disabled people.

A recent article summed up this inequity as "the volunteer syndrome. Persons with disabilities receive an amazing number of invitations to give away their knowledge, energy and endorsements for free ... [W]e often get 'sucked into' these things because we cringe at the thought of the harm to our community that can flow from poorly conceived, prejudicial projects managed by people who lack understanding of the disability experience. ... Yet when a situation calls for an expert on disability, in an overwhelming proportion of cases, a non-disabled person gets the job. While we remain shackled by oppression, non-disabled people do our projects ... Disability is big business." (Gill, "Who Gets the Profits?" *Mainstream Magazine*, November, 1992.)

Because of this injustice, I have to cut down on outside work like this. I wish you well in all your important work. I will miss your letters.

Yours for a more just society,

Diane Coleman

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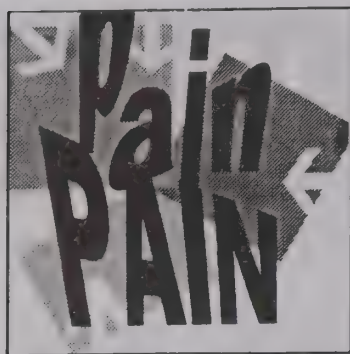
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AN IDEAL GIFT FROM THE FAMILY



PATRICK BAGLEE

St Thomas' Hospital in London has the one and only residential pain management centre in Britain.

Opened by the Prince of Wales in January 1988, "Input" helps people to control their chronic pain by using relaxation techniques, positive thinking and exercise.

The men behind the pioneering project are Dr Charles Pither and Dr Doug Justins who worked at St Thomas' pain clinic.

They got the idea from clinics in Washington and Seattle, which had been operating since the 1970s. "We were impressed by the work carried out and felt Britain needed a similar service," said Dr Pither, who is now the centre's medical director.

The King's Fund Centre provided a £250,000 start-up grant. In the new-style NHS, money now "follows the patient", via contracts with health authorities and GPs' budgets. Financially, the centre is doing well.

How it works

Input has ten staff, including a nurse, occupational therapist and two physiotherapists. The centre takes in 12 people at a time, all of whom have been in pain for a year. You must be referred by your doctor.

Breaking down the pain barrier

A unique centre is showing people how to live through their pain. Tim Russell reports

The residents' day lasts from 8.30am to 4pm, and includes lectures on what causes chronic pain, how stress makes it worse and why medical treatment has failed to cure it. There are also goal-setting sessions, group discussions and exercise classes.

Breakfast and lunch are provided but residents cook their own dinner. They go home at weekends and bring their partners in on Thursdays.

"Our aim is to improve the lifestyle and well-being of people in pain by teaching them how they can cope with it," said Dr Pither.

"Residents have to set aside the possibility of a cure and instead start challenging their own negative thoughts. A lot of people have been told that the pain is in their head and they often start to believe it. If you tell them that the pain does exist but they can manage it, it makes them feel less depressed and more in control."

More exercise, less pain

The centre tries to get residents off tablets and discourages them from using sticks, collars and corsets.

"We get them physically fitter by using stretching exercises, sit-ups, push-ups and an exercise cycle," said charge nurse, Judith Ralphs.

"This has to be done gradually because it is important that people in pain pace themselves. It is easy to get into the bad habit of doing too much activity, tiring yourself out and then nothing

for ages because you feel exhausted. It is much better to do a little at a time.

"We can break people out of this vicious circle by gradually building up their strength, enabling them to walk and stand for longer periods."

feel because you become more mobile and your body produces more of the body's natural painkillers called endorphins.

"It was very hard work at first and a bit of a struggle, but the staff have been excellent. Although they won't be

The centre's occupational therapist, Jackie Adams, said: "People in pain often feel a lot of anger and think negatively because they give up enjoyable activities or no longer work. We encourage them to challenge negative thoughts by setting themselves goals."

Roy Knight, from Kent, was left with chronic back pain after a ladder fell on his back. His goal is to walk longer distances and he was very pleased with his progress. "I feel a lot more confident and able to handle my pain," he said. "It helps to meet other people in the same position and talk about it."

Colin Pryer, from Sussex, who has pain in the legs and back, agreed. "The centre is excellent. It's down to each individual what they make of it. The facilities are all here, so it's up to you to take best advantage of them."

Limited success

Although Input spreads its expertise by providing day courses for doctors and therapists from other hospitals, it remains unique. Funding to set up other centres is hard to come by.

Self Help in Pain (SHIP), a Kent-based group run by people with chronic pain (DN, October), believes the centre's services are invaluable. But the group's co-ordinator Rosalie Everatt said: "The exercise is tough and some people find the experience too much. There are some residents who sink back into despair because they don't feel they have enough back-up when they return home."

Input realises the problem, but says its main aim is to make people self-reliant.

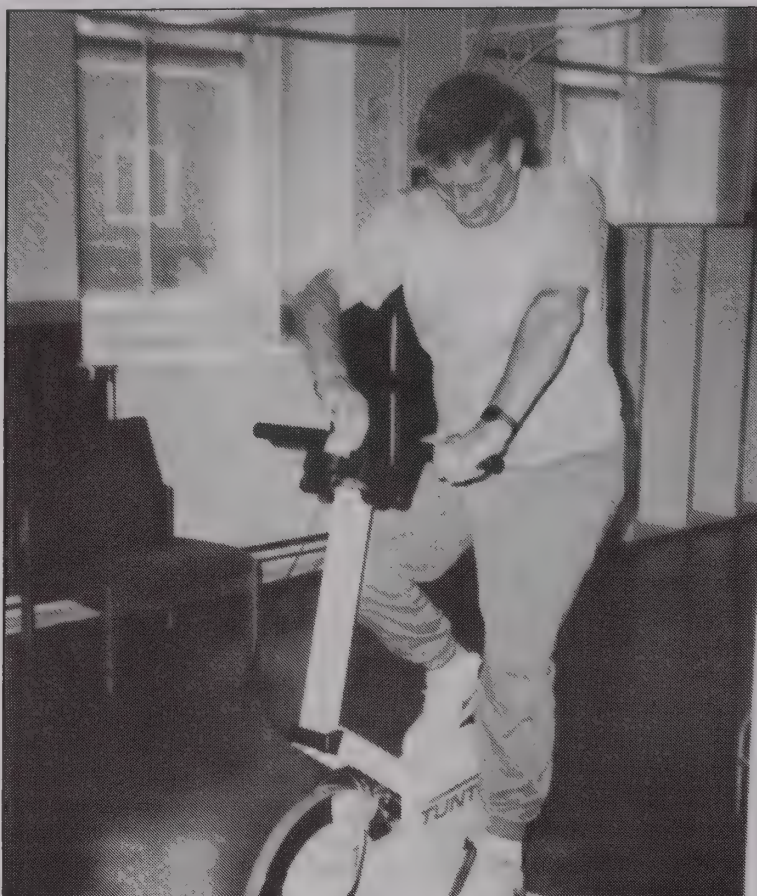
"People can phone or visit the centre should they hit problems at home and every resident is given a folder full of information. But we are aiming to make people more self-supportive," said Judith Ralphs. "That way, they can provide their own back-up."

Scoring goals

With the current group halfway through their programme, thoughts have already turned to how they will cope on their own.

"When we first set our goals we weren't very confident," said Diana Sanders. "But that's all changed. I've progressed from wanting to climb steps to thinking of horse-riding again. We know it will be tough when we get back home, but we'll stay in touch and keep encouraging each other."

Input, St Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH.



Roy Knight at the wheels

TIM RUSSELL

Diana Sanders, from London, injured her back while working as an upholsterer. "It's great to be able to exercise again after more than 14 years of inactivity. We've found that the more you exercise, the less pain you

sympathetic if you fall over, they praise you lavishly when you succeed."

Staff use psychological techniques to make residents think more positively about what they can achieve.

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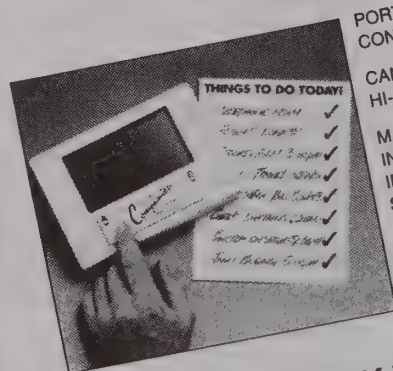
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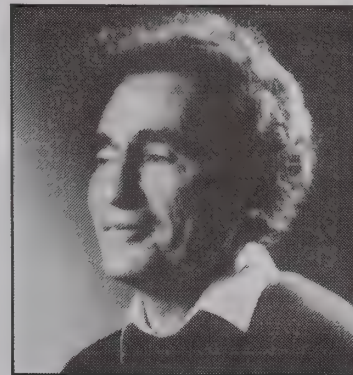
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Albie Sachs is famous as a South African civil rights activist. Now he is disabled, he has found another cause. Mary Wilkinson met him

Soft freedom fighter



admitted in his book. While he was proud of fighting energetically "at the crucial moments", for the rest "I did not do anything, just smiled with pleasure at being alive."

Vanity, he acknowledges, was the strongest motive in writing the book, "but it's a vanity that's based on turning something terrible into something good, being able to channel and grasp this terrible cataclysmic thing that's happening."

He sees himself as the visible end of thousands who have suffered in the fight for civil rights in South Africa.

He now rejects the notion of hero, because he thinks it simplifies courage and right and wrong. "In concept and behaviour you were either a hero or a traitor, and it meant that a lot of good people became destroyed."

His own methods are non-violent. "Perhaps that's one virtue of the book, that the humour was natural, the softness, the quietness of it. I was really happy with that, that was me."

The Soft Vengeance of A Freedom Fighter by Albie Sachs, Paladin, £5.99.



"Your car was was crumpled up like a ball, and you were lying some distance away"

THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE AND AID FUND

bodied passersby in his wheelchair, being told of the successes of other severely disabled people.

"At one stage there was very strong pressure on me to have a prosthesis, to be normal so that nobody would know that I've only got one arm. It was only when I unravelled that one that I became really free."

He has felt angry only once and that, surprisingly, came out of joy. He had been sitting in the bath with a friend, listening to Beethoven, having got in touch with his body again. Then he found he couldn't get out. He started swearing and shouting, "but being politically correct, even when angry, I converted 'bastards' and 'buggers' into 'rats' and 'cockroaches'!"

Nowadays, the only thing he can't do is get the crease exactly right when he hangs his trousers on a hanger.

"My problem isn't functional, and perhaps that gives me a very strong identification with the disabled movement, because the problems are not essentially functional; the problems are how society regards you."

It was his ex-wife who remarked how militant he had become on behalf of disabled people. "It seems part and parcel of the broad human rights advance in our country. Being on the national executive committee of the ANC and on the constitutional committee, I've been in a position to ensure that the rights of disabled people are kept up front."

An ANC draft bill of rights, drawn up in consultation with the umbrella organisation Disabled People South Africa (DPSA), is the only one which specifically includes disabled people.

A clause banning discrim-

ination on grounds of race, colour, creed, gender and disability is already in the South African interim bill of rights which, from April '94, will cover the two-year transition period before the new constitution is agreed. "We are fairly hopeful that that will hold."

Sachs sees the DPSA, with its non-racial, affirmative action and its concern for disabled women and children, as "the vision of the new South Africa we want. In that

respect it is more advanced than any other social body in the country." "Nothing about us without us" is the slogan.

Already a hero of the South African civil rights movement, Sachs could slip into the same role in the disability movement. The applause he received at his appearance last month has followed his speeches back home and is sure to be echoed during Graeae's national tour.

"The question of heroism bothers me quite a lot," he

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Letters to the Editor



Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

What about disabled JPs?

Your article about Jim Bennett's disqualification from jury service (*DN*, September), shows again how widespread discrimination against disabled people is.

That discrimination will continue until the Government accepts (as a majority of MPs have already done) the need for comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.

But discrimination in the courts goes further than banning blind jurors.

On 26 October, the TUC will be convening a meeting, including representatives of the Bar Council, the Law Society and organisations of and for disabled people, to consider a campaign against discrimination in the appointment of magistrates.

The TUC and trade unions are often asked to suggest the names of JPs. We do not want our disabled members barred from this process.

If any of your readers has experienced such discrimination or would like to support our campaign, please get in touch.

John Monks
General Secretary
Trades Union Congress
Congress House
Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3LS

No scooter if I'm 'sheltered'

Appropos of the pensioner trapped in sheltered housing because there was no room for her scooter (*DN*, October), when I searched widely for sheltered accommodation three years ago, I was astonished to find numerous developments for elderly and disabled people being built without scooter storage and charging space.

As I am heavily dependent on my three-wheeler, I am now in unsheltered accommodation.

It seems that Government regulations do not require the provision of under-cover storage or charging facilities for electric vehicles in sheltered accommodation.

This omission needs to be rectified. All that is needed is a garage with, say, three charging points per 30 flats, incorporated at the planning stage, rather than being a problem for the housing association to solve later. Or it could be a large room on the ground floor with easy access and charging points.

Ann Gabell
Gloucester

Recipe for spongers

We are a group of 18 on the Horizon European Social Fund project for people with disabilities at the Waltham Forest

Disability Resource Centre (400 disabled members).

We read with growing horror your lead story "Volunteers are fit for work" (*DN*, June).

What point can there possibly be for people with disabilities to have education or training if the result of a course in carpentry, computer studies, even Open University, is that their benefits are removed?

They would be better advised to waste their talents lounging around and gobbling up taxpayers' money.

As for the Government saving £240m in three years, has it overlooked the fact that if people with disabilities were able to earn money, they could support the economy and not have their benefits threatened?

We would like to state that:

1. People with disabilities are not second class citizens. Their ability and desire to work must be respected. We need anti-discrimination legislation.

2. People with disabilities are entitled to certain rights - such as to pursue employment without the threat of having benefits removed. There should be a non-means test benefit to compensate them for the greater costs of disability, which is not affected by work.
3. The threat of withdrawal of benefits if certain voluntary work is undertaken discriminates against people with disabilities.

We are meeting our MP in October, and hope to meet officers of the All Party Disablement Group.

If individuals or groups want to support us, please write.

Aileen Webber
Horizon Project
Disability Resource Centre
1a Warner Road
Walthamstow E17 7DY

Trying hard

As the person responsible for the support of students with disabilities at Bolton Institute, I want to redress the overall negative image portrayed by Tom Walker (*DN*, September).

Tom's experience of the Institute is only one individual's perspective, as a visually impaired student based in the Division of Psychology.

Students with a variety of disabilities/special needs have successfully completed their courses here. They frequently experience additional pressures in their academic careers, but every help is given to them to alleviate these problems.

Overall, facilities have improved over the past academic year, not gone "from bad to worse". For example, since September 1992, I have been employed full-time to give practical advice and support on an individual basis. Special literature is available free. Despite limited funds, the Institute has bought two CCTVs, a PC with software for students with dyslexia and printer, and a braille key board. An "in house" transcription service has been set up. Basic signing communication is available and so is part-time learning support for dyslexic students.

While the age of the building does mean that the Institute has inherent problems of access, significant improvements have and are being made. There is a physical access working party involving staff and disabled students.

Unfortunately, Tom has never shown any interest in joining the working party, so his knowledge of physical

access developments is rather limited.

Denise Anthony
Information Office
(Special Needs)
Bolton Institute

Weighty problem

Manufacturers should put the weight limit a chair or scooter will bear in their brochures, like they do in the USA. We are not all seven stone weaklings.

I went to an agent to look at a wheelchair costing £450 that he said would be suitable for me and was given a couple of brochures. I rang the manufacturer in Birmingham to ask about weight limit and was told I was above the limit for that chair.

I would advise others to check with a manufacturer before committing themselves.

W J Womersley
Sowerby Bridge
Yorkshire

sic

Shome mishtake shurely

News reaches us of a quaint little tome called *Medical Curiosities*, which bills itself as "the world's greatest authority on the odd and the unusual". Readers can thrill to the tale of the Siamese twins who married, ogle the man with the elastic skin, or pore over "famed giants and dwarfs". The best bit, though, is the authors' names: Dr G M Gould and Dr W L Pyle.

There has obviously been a bit of a printers' error here. Surely it should read Dr Ghoul and Dr Pile-of? (Answers on a postcard please.)

Name callers

Sic also hears that Guide, the county disability, health and community information service in Gloucestershire, has produced a *Thesaurus of Disability Terms**. An excellent idea. We wonder what it says under Orange Badge Parking Space? "Something disabled people will have to fight non-disabled people to get into". Or how about Disability Living Allowance Claim? "A thing which takes forever to settle", "a being whose existence will be denied by those in authority." The mind boggles.

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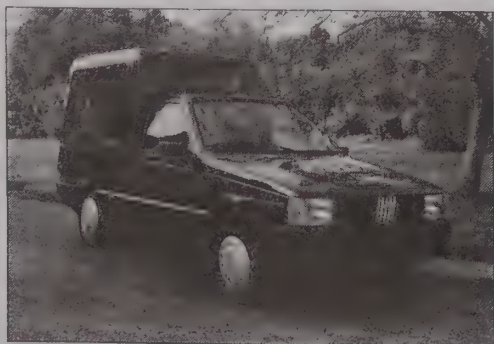
A man in a wheelchair is being hunted by police in Massachusetts after his accomplice was seen hurriedly folding up the chair and helping him into the car after a bank robbery.

Sic foresees this opening up a whole new marketing vein for wheelchair manufacturers. We can see the ads now: "Acme wheelchairs - you pull da heist, we get you back in da car in five seconds or your money back."



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Record entry for junior games

A record entry of over 200 athletes from 25 schools competed in the National Junior Games at Stoke Mandeville last month.

The annual four day event was organised by the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation, British Sports Association for the Disabled, the British Amputee Sports Association and CP Sport.

Competitors took part in 14 sports, including archery, athletics, basketball, fencing, snooker, swimming and powerlifting.

The most successful male athlete was Alex Collins, from Rugby, who won three gold medals in the group B 100m, 200m and 1,500m wheelchair races. He also came second in the F2/F3 shot putt, which was won by Robert Crook, from Wolverhampton.

Richard Whitehead, from

Nottingham, proved to be the games' most versatile competitor. He won gold medals in both the tennis and snooker competitions.

Joanna Ryan, from London, was presented with an award for being the girl who showed the "most promise". She impressed the judges by winning the group B discus event with a superb final throw of 9.96m.

The basketball competition was won by the North West Dream Team. They defeated Tottenham Tigers Juniors 28-12 in an exciting final.

Two special awards were given to the games' "outstanding personalities". Winners were Charlotte Meyer and Gavin Hyde, both from Wales. The two friends were praised for their skill in the wheelchair slalom race and eagerness to get involved in every event.



Pot black: Young snooker star Richard Whitehead potting his way to glory at the National Junior Games. He won the standing competition and the tennis

GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

Swimmers sweep the board

British swimmers swept the board at the Slovakian National Championships in Bratislava last month.

Outstanding performances from Sarah Bailey, Paul Noble and Margaret McEleney helped Britain beat the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia.

Sarah Bailey was named best junior female swimmer after taking nine titles, including the 200m freestyle, 400m freestyle, and 200m backstroke events.

"I really enjoyed myself out there," she said. "It was great to win so many events because the competition was so strong."

Paul Noble won six events, including the 100m freestyle and 100m breaststroke races, but it was Margaret McEleney who had most to cheer about. She broke the FB3 100m breaststroke world record with a time of 2:15:29.

The British team used the event as a warm up for the

British Sports Association for the Disabled's Long Course Swimming Championships in Sheffield on 30 October.

British team manager Pat Bennett said: "We're delighted at our performances in Slovakia and hope to repeat that success in Sheffield."

Sport is written by
Tim Russell,
tel: 071 636 5020



Paralympic athlete Ernie Guild gives Emma Brown a big hug and a gold medal after she won her wheelchair race

New group launched

A new association for disabled table tennis players was launched in Reading last month by Sir Peter Yarranton, chairman of the Sports Council.

The British Table Tennis Association for People with Disabilities (BTTAD) is the first group formed in Britain to represent table tennis players

with all kinds of disabilities.

It plans to promote the sport by running a series of competitions and coaching courses throughout the country.

BTTAD, annual membership £5, 109 Stanbridge Road, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire, HP17 8HN, tel: (0844) 292282.

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The BT Kielder Challenge puts teams of disabled and non-disabled youngsters up against the wild outdoors. As Claire Tregaskis reports, it's no teddy bears' picnic

Ryan Nicol, 15, was inching his way along a rope three feet off the ground, shouts of

If you go down to the

encouragement from anxious team mates echoing across the Kielder Forest in Northumberland.

He was one of 48 young people, aged between 13-17, making up the six teams in the final of the 1993 BT Kielder Challenge in September. Ninety-six teams started the competition last Spring.

The BT Kielder Challenge is a nationwide adventure project in which young people with and without disabilities compete in problem solving games. Tasks in this year's final included horse riding, rafting, rope courses, archery and shooting.

In 1993, for the first time, the finalists represented the

whole of the UK: Valence School from Westerham, Kent; Bishop of Hereford Blue Coat School, Tupsley; Chads Grove School from Bromsgrove; Ysgol Gogarth School from Llandudno; Mitchell House from Belfast; and Edinburgh Scouts.

The Challenge is about teamwork, with the scoring

system putting this, together with endeavour and initiative, above performance. Each team has eight members, half of whom are disabled. Of the competitors with disabilities, two should be electric wheelchair users, one a manual

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Q. Will it stay on?

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Q. Is it comfortable to wear?

A. Yes. It's lightweight and the unique Urilliner adhesive is particularly skin friendly.

Q. It won't twist and leak, will it?

A. A special anti-kink feature stops the sheath twisting when you attach it to your drainage bag. So urine can't flow back and there's no risk of leakage.

Q. What about taking it off?

A. Removal is easy and painless. Unlike some adhesives, the Urilliner's skin-friendly adhesive causes no discomfort, or sticky residue on your skin.

Conveen Sterile Contoured Leg Bags bring comfort and mobility to catheter users.

Q. Will people notice I'm wearing it?

A. No. And you'll hardly notice it either. The honeycomb-like multi-channelling distributes urine evenly and the contoured shape makes it totally discreet, even under tight fitting clothing.

Q. What about leakage?

A. Leakage is not a problem. **Conveen** leg bags have a unique double welding all the way round, for complete security and peace of mind. And the unique 'flip-type' tap shuts with a reassuringly audible click.

Conveen Adjustable Contoured Leg Bag (non-sterile) is contoured for comfort and designed for discretion.

Q. I like to get about, is the bag big enough?

A. At 600ml, it's actually 20% bigger than other bags and it should allow you the freedom to travel in comfort for several hours.

Q. Can I adjust the connector?

A. Yes. Whether you're able to walk around, or are using a wheelchair, the connector can be cut to the length that suits you best.

Conveen Sterile Night Drainage Bag designed to give you a peaceful night's sleep.

Q. Can the system really cope all night long?

A. Of course. It has a specially wide inlet to help the flow and there's no possibility of urine flowing back. The bag offers you extra security against leakage too.

Q. Can I be sure the tap is securely closed?

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The Cambridge Vikings need a high performance product, and they believe that **Conveen** provides just that - isn't it time you put your trust in **Conveen** too.



Leah White (left) from Mitchell

wheelchair user, and the fourth ambulant. (These rules were introduced by the competition organisers, the Fieldfare Trust, to try to ensure a wide range of disability within each team.) Each activity is designed to give every team member a role to play. When a team is working well together, there is no passive role for any member, regardless of ability.

Poisoned venison

As well as encouraging teamwork and integration, the activities try to raise awareness of the environment. In one game in the final, teams were told that man's neglect of the



Verity Hyldon helps Daniel Tayl

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Woods today ...

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on the unfortunate "animals"
rolled up foam) so an antidote
and to save the rest. To make
se, no-one was allowed to touch
or the contaminated ground.
was that Ryan from Mitchell

see people getting tired, and
one of the able-bodied girls
had to be helped by a team
mate as she accidentally
straddled the rope instead of
standing on it! But good
humour was the order of the
day, and at the end they still



gets the "venison" with Ryan Nicol

MIKE BLENKINSOP STUDIOS

and himself swinging
in the Kielder
while two of his team
manoeuvred electric
ropes around the forest
area. Their job was to
be the series of ropes
to help Ryan to
climb. Cleverly tying
the backs of
chairs, each individual
was moving towards the same
teamwork in

atmosphere was tense
as the team worked to
divide as many pieces
as possible within
the allowed time. With each
achievement everyone cheered.
At the end, you could



his protective hat

had enough energy to belt out the team
song at full volume, before heading off to
the next activity.

For many competitors, one of the best
things about the two day final, held at the



Ysgol Gogarth's Nathan Cambray shoots the breeze with Lowry Hughes

Calvert Trust's Adventure Centre, was that
they had to stay over. They were able to
get to know each other much better, and to
develop a deeper appreciation of other
people's abilities and needs.

Many of the competitors with disabilities
had never worked as part of a team, or been
expected to play an active role in anything.
One said: "I didn't realise I could do this",
while another commented: "I never trusted
able-bodied people before I took part in the
challenge".

Frustration mounts

Similarly, some of the able-bodied
competitors had never worked on equal
terms with people with disabilities before.
As the pressure mounted, a few became
frustrated watching others complete tasks
they felt could have been done more

quickly by themselves. And
not everyone was sure how far
they could go in "encouraging"
their team-mates. One able-
bodied girl, who yelled at her
colleagues to "get a move on",
found herself being told by
another able-bodied team
member, "You mustn't shout
at them". But most teams were
more relaxed and confident
about heaping both praise and
blame on each other.

Sometimes the make-up of
the teams threw up unexpected
challenges. The girls from
Mitchell House hadn't realised
when they first got involved
that people with obvious
physical disabilities might also
have hidden disabilities.

The further the team
progressed in the competition,
the more they learnt to work
together and the more
confident they became. In the
final, they picked up the Team
Unity shield.

For a team which had never
worked together before the
Challenge, and who were
delighted just to reach the
final, this was the real icing on
the cake.

Learning from the past

The overall winners of the BT
Kielder Challenge Trophy
were Chads Grove School
(every team which enters gets
a certificate). Although the
members had met informally
beforehand, they had never
worked together before in a
pressure situation, and were

positive image of what can be
achieved.

Others would have preferred
a few more active games to get
the adrenaline flowing, rather
than more abstract problem-
solving activities.

On the whole, though, there
was general agreement that the
weekend had been fun. Rod
Holmes, project organiser, was
delighted with the performance
of all the teams, and with their
willingness to build on the
friendships and working
relationships that were forged.
Valence School want to set up
a mini-Challenge in Kent, and
Mitchell House from Belfast
and Ysgol Gogarth from
Llandudno intend to set up
exchange visits.

Survivors speak out

But is the Challenge simply an
enjoyable, one-off experience,
or can it have more lasting
benefits? The best way to find
out was to ask those who had
been through it last year.

Angela Jackman, head
teacher of Three Crowns

School in Walsall, said taking
part had greatly increased the
speed with which some of her
pupils were integrated into the
nearby mainstream school.

Joanne Pye, 14, from
Woodlawn School in Whitley
Bay said: "It made me more
willing to try new things and
to see that I can join in more
adventurous activities instead
of watching".

Her team-mate had the final
word: "I feel like I have more
to offer, and I am more
determined now that I have
seen what I can do".

Claire Tregaskis is assistant
project officer at the Fieldfare
Trust.

WHO DARES WINS

If your school or youth
group would like more
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Accion Mutante The Piano

I was worried about *Accion Mutante* (18), the latest offering from Spanish director Alex de la Iglesia, the moment I clapped eyes on the reviews in the posh papers and specialist film mags.

This select band of critics is not known for being in tune with disability issues, habitually trading in such delightful words as "deformed", "handicapped", "retarded", etc. Sure enough, all of these popped up in the reviews.

But, almost unanimously, they agreed that *Accion Mutante* was a "promising idea": a futuristic band of disabled terrorists target the able-bodied for revenge, bungling a kidnap which leads to mayhem and massacre.

I couldn't help thinking that if these critics felt this film had something positive to say about disability, then it was bound to be offensive. When I got round to watching it, I wasn't wrong.

Accion Mutante might well feature a whole host of disabled characters, but this is strictly designer disability - stitched



Accion Mutante: "strictly designer disability"

together to cash in on sicko comedy, disablist jokes and a disturbing obsession with bodily mutilation. Enough said.

Jane Campion's *The Piano* (15) begins with Ada (Holly Hunter) arriving in New Zealand with her piano and nine-year-old daughter. Ada, who has not spoken since the age of six, has been married off to a stranger (Sam Neill).

Set in the 19th Century, *The Piano* is an absorbing tale of Ada's liberation. Even so, Ada's impairment turns out to be of a psycho-sexual nature, serving as a metaphor for the silence and repression imposed upon Victorian women.

The London Film Festival (LFF) runs from 4-21

November.

The Journey (Museum of the Moving Image, 20 November)

is a documentary about Billie Sinclair, a seventy-something from Australia who has been



The Piano: a film to take your hat off to

Video top five

CC: closed captions,
S: subtitles, N: nothing

1. UNDER SEIGE (Warner)
All-action pic. (CC)
2. DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN (Hollywood): Eddie Murphy goes from conman to congressman. (CC)
3. CANDYMAN (Columbia Tri-Star): Mythical killer terrorizes housing estate. (CC)
4. UNFORGIVEN (Warner): Oscar-winning Western. (CC)
5. TOYS (Fox Video): Comedy, drama, fantasy and Robin Williams. (CC)

Andy Kimpton-Nye
Chart courtesy of MRIB

deaf-blind since childhood.

The film's strength lies in its emphasis on the value of communication (in particular, finger-talking for deaf-blind people). There's narration/soundtrack to complement the visuals - but no subtitles!

Living Proof: HIV and the Pursuit of Happiness (Institute of Contemporary Arts, 9 November), is an upbeat, even humorous, look at people who have tested positive.

The Great Pumpkin (same venue, 11 November) tells of the relationship between a neurologist and a young girl with epilepsy.

LFF, tel: 081-928 3232.

Buy Christmas cards by DN artists!



Village Scene by June Mills
(above, 10 cards for £2.55) and
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Pink, 13, (right, 10 cards for £2.15) were both shortlisted in the DN Christmas card competition, open to artists with disabilities.

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(of 4)

THEATRE

Soft Vengeance

Soft Vengeance is the new offering from the Graeae Theatre Company - Britain's leading company of disabled actors - about Albie Sachs, a South African civil rights lawyer.

African National Congress member Sachs lost his right arm and the sight of one eye following an assassination attempt by South African security forces in 1988.

The play chronicles his experiences afterwards and the personal and political challenges he faces as he comes to terms with his disabilities.

I expected this to be all grist to the mill for Graeae. But I came away feeling that, despite the play's many humorous and moving aspects, it was lacking in something.

It certainly wasn't the script, which flowed comfortably and gave the performers plenty of room to use their stagecraft. The part where Sachs (Ray Harrison Graham), checks his genitals are still in place in the car bomb's aftermath, is beautifully handled. The weaving together of the political issues around South Africa and the issue of disability are also well done, with neither dominating.

The performers seemed well suited to their parts, although



"Albie night time" (right) gets together with Albie

the multitude of cameos taken on by two of the cast was bound to lead to a watering down. But keep an eye out for Melba the home help, a wonderful role superbly acted by Deborah Williams.

The concept of Sachs' alter ego, known as "Albie night time", played by Ewan Marshall, is excellent. The conversations between the two, one angry and cynical, the other forgiving, spotlight the conflicts that Sachs faced during his rehabilitation. Seeing him wrestle with wanting to take his shirt off in a park, and risk offending others with his stump, drove the message home.

The set was fairly stark and imaginatively used, but I wonder if it contributed to the feeling of pacelessness in the play. Lack of timing and occasional slow delivery didn't help. I also suspect that it is difficult to be objective when you are both director and performer (Ewan Marshall).

Go and see *Soft Vengeance*, if only for a powerful story and some cracking one liners - but don't expect much more.

Ben Furner

Next UK date: 1-2 November at the Skelmersdale Arts Centre, Merseyside, tel: (0695) 20312. Next signed/audio described performance: Nuffield Theatre, Lancaster, tel: (0524) 39026. Full tour details, contact Graeae, tel: 071-267 1959.

TV



Chris Davies

First, the good news. *Children of Courage* is defunct, and you will not see Esther and Gavin during this year's *Children in Need*. 1993 also sees the final series of *That's Life*.

Now the not so good news: Esther's other brainchild, *Hearts of Gold*, (BBC1, weekly from 5 October) has returned for a new series. As usual, when it comes to tackiness and emotional manipulation, the ratings are sky high.

The first programme spotlighted John Lee, a deaf yachtsman who saved the lives of two other deaf people.

In the studio, Mr Lee's sign language was interpreted for the guests but not the viewers. And the film about his deeds had open subtitles, but no sign language. Here was a role model for deaf viewers, yet they were not given consistent access. While *Hearts of Gold* may not be a programme that deaf people would want to watch, why should they be denied the chance to appreciate an item about someone from their community?

Challenge Anneka (BBC1, 2 October) once again dipped into disability. This time, her challenge was to adapt two houses for people with a spinal injury who were being discharged from rehabilitation wards.

Because of the nature of the impairment being discussed, the obvious question - "how did your accident happen?" - was still asked. Despite this, I much prefer Anneka Rice's behaviour with disabled people to that of Esther Rantzen.

Two specialist series have returned. *Sign On* (Channel 4, weekly from 25 September) displayed its usual excellence with, among other pieces, an item on law and order.

From the Edge (BBC2, weekly from 30 September) is now under new management and has a new look. The first programme covered rape, the Graeae tour (see page 13 and this page for review) and the Royal National Institute for the Blind's new corporate image (DN, October). I note a distinct improvement, but there is scope for much more.

Link (ITV, Sunday mornings) is superior to *From the Edge*, even when it dredges up the old argument about disabled people acting as consultants to the now extinct ITV *Telethon*. With the demise of the *Telethon*, and *Children of Courage*, 1993 is a good year for disabled people. All we want now is the axing of *Hearts of Gold*.

EXHIBITION

Bayeaux Tapestry Replica

The Bayeaux Tapestry Replica has "come alive" for visually impaired people in Reading Museum.

This unique tapestry, a Victorian version of the original one in Northern France, is the world's only full-scale replica. (It is also famous because the modesty of its "creators", the ladies of the Leek Embroidery Society, prevented the depiction of one rather well-endowed man as in the original, covering him with what looks like a pair of boxer shorts instead.)

The first thing that strikes you is how beautifully it is displayed. Too often, exhibits are hung above a good eye-level for wheelchair users, children and those of us who are visually impaired.

Here, the full length of the tapestry (231 feet) is on view as a continuous "ribbon", stretching along two rooms. It is well-lit by low, though adequate, lighting and the descriptions inside the cabinets are clear.

The tapestry itself almost takes the breath away, with its array of muted colours and

vistas of dramatic action. Here is Edward the Confessor, sending Harold off to visit William in France. He is captured, then released, signs a treaty, returns to England, and is crowned King after Edward's death. It all hots up when William, believing himself betrayed, rises to conquer. Eventually, Harold is killed during the Battle of Hastings in 1066 (and all that).

My pleasure was made complete by the excellent audio-taped description and the thermoforms. These wooden "bats", with a raised representation of the picture on one side that you trace with your fingers, and a braille/large print description on the other, were the idea of John Rhodes, the curator, who commissioned the Living Paintings Trust to do them.

Alison Oldland, Trust founder, has made a marvellous job of the script. I was able to really "see" details that escaped the sighted visitor's eyes, like the Halley's Comet that appeared in the sky around that period, and the keys of a vanquished town handed over on the point of a sword.

All in all, a superb exhibition and a riveting delve into history.

Contact the museum at the Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading, Berks RG1 1QH, tel: (0734) 399800.

Look out for

Show of Hands Theatre Company, an ensemble of eight speaking and signing actors, is on tour with *Twelfth Night*. 29-30 October in the Old Museum Arts Centre, Belfast, then touring till 11 December. Contact Margie Foskin, tel: 071-323 3003.

Stream Records, whose stable of artists includes Heart and Soul and Fish out of Water, has just released its new 1993/94 mail order

catalogue. Send a SAE to Stream Records, 77a Hindmans Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 9NQ.

Creative writing workshop for disabled people. Meets fortnightly in Longsight Library, Manchester. Contact Cathy Bolton, tel: 061-236 2773.

Disability Arts Festival in Wandsworth, London. Acts include Heart 'n' Soul and Survivors' Poetry. Runs throughout November. Tel: 071-924 5287.

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Disability, Liberation and Development

by Peter Coleridge
(Oxfam UK & Ireland 274 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7DZ, £8.35)

During the past 20 years, there has been a growing recognition that disability can be interpreted in non-medical ways. What is remarkable is that this insight is gaining ground all over the world.

Drawing on interviews with disabled people active in forming self-help organisations in Zanzibar, Zimbabwe, India, Jordan and Lebanon and the Occupied Territories, Peter Coleridge concludes that what disabled people want is full citizenship rights. (In contrast to professionals, disabled activists placed greater provision of medical rehabilitation lower down their list of priorities.)

The first part of the book presents the case for disabled people organising themselves and reducing their dependency upon non-disabled service providers.

Then Mr Coleridge sets out to identify the key concerns of disabled people. These, he claims, centre around negative attitudes: "[Disabled people] become literally disabled by the social attitudes they meet every day of their lives."

Case studies from the five developing countries show how disabled people can become active in promoting their own rights. When they do so, it proves much more effective than the traditional, expensive, "professional" services.

Although this will be essential reading for anyone seeking a broader understanding of disability issues, it muddles the social model of disability. Social attitudes towards disabled people are confused with the social construction of disability. Rather than demonstrating the need to target public attitudes, the case studies actually



Adam Jackson explores one of the oldest treatments in *Massage Therapy*. £5.99. Optima, 165 Great Dover Street, London SE1 4YA.

illustrate how changing the real world can help reconstruct the meaning of disability. For example: "I was just crossing the road ... and a girl tried to give me money instead of helping me to cross the road. She thought I was a beggar. Lecturing this girl is not going to make any difference ... if she goes out and sees a disabled person begging in the street, what is the point of the lecture? But if she saw me working, she would understand."

Perhaps the muddle is not surprising. Mr Coleridge makes no attempt to get to grips with theoretical writing by disabled people, or apply it to his case histories. Readers looking for a clear explanation of the social model, and its application in the real world, should turn to authors like Mike Oliver. Mike Oliver is not mentioned at all here - a serious omission in a book arguing the importance of a social approach to disability.

Vic Finkelstein

High Chairs and Children

by Sandie Waddell
(Education Resource Centre, PO Box 1813, Whangarei, New Zealand. Please send a money order for £10.80, payable to Sandie Waddell)

Sandie Waddell has a spinal injury. When she was having her first child, she discovered there was no information available on pregnancy and disability. She has now written this book in the hope that others will be better informed.

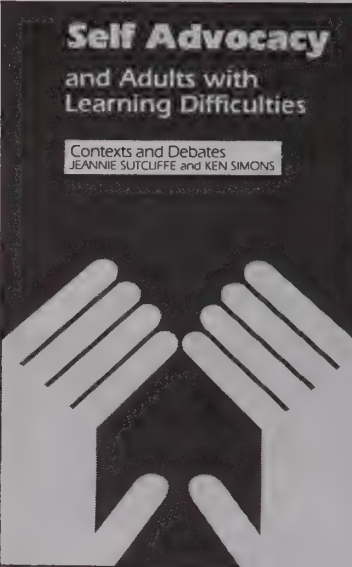
It begins with the subject of sex, which, of course, is where it all starts. She notes that people, doctors included, are often unwilling to acknowledge the sexuality of disabled women, let alone help us explore and develop it. It is a basic right of all human beings to have sexual pleasure and love.

Just as able-bodied women have different problems during pregnancy, so it is with women with different disabilities. As

well as recounting her own experiences, she gives the views of 23 other disabled women. Sandie Waddell leaves no stone unturned, adding her own comments and tips along the way.

I wish this book had been around five years ago when I became pregnant and had to learn through trial and error. It is friendly, chatty, encouraging, light-hearted and full of practical hints.

It is still as important as ever to confirm with your doctor that there is no risk to you or your baby's health as a result of pregnancy, but I agree with Sandie when she says,



Self Advocacy and Adults with Learning Disabilities, by Jeannie Sutcliffe and Ken Simons. £4.95. National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, England and Wales, 19b De Montfort Street, Leicester LE1 7GE.

"Grab life by the hand and move with determination down whatever road you choose to travel."

Isobel Ward

Book news

In *Why does Chris do That?*, Tony Attwood tries to explain the behaviour of people with autism and Asperger Syndrome and how it might be managed. £3.50. The National Autistic Society (NAS), 276 Willesden Lane, London NW2 5RB. If you would also like a free copy of the NAS publications list, please enclose a SAE.

Mental Handicap and the Law, by solicitors Gordon Ashton and Adrian Ward, bills itself as "a complete analysis of mental handicap from every legal perspective in England and Scotland." £46. Sweet and Maxwell Limited, Cheriton House, North Way, Andover, Hants SP10 5BE.

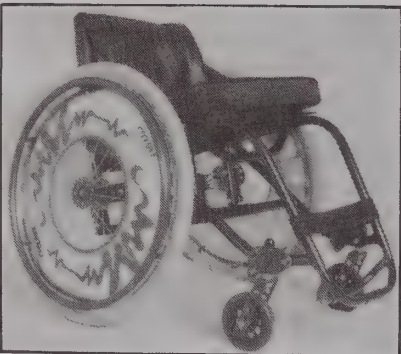
Movement Activities for Children with Learning Difficulties, by Bren Pointer, is aimed at people working with children. Includes ideas for warm up activities, basic games and movement skills. £12.99. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 116 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JB.

Creative marketing and financial know-how are just two of the skills charities will need to survive the funding squeeze, according to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). Planning for the Future, "a step-by-step guide to business planning", will show you how to adapt and survive. £10.95.

NCVO Publications, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saint's Street, London N1 9RL.

Improve Your Image

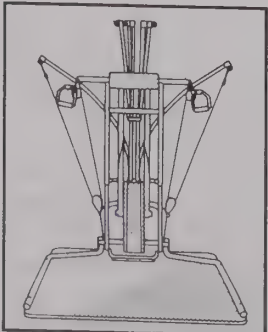
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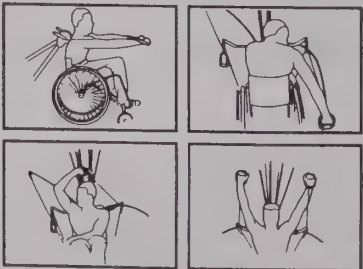
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MOBILITY

Dreams and good value in a 'higgledy-piggledy' world

by Paul Smith

This was my first visit to Naidex at the Wembley Conference and Exhibition Centre.

For people living nearby or using public transport, it is probably a good site. But for those of us coming by car, who travel rarely in London, the journey can be most unpleasant. I spoke to several people who were exhausted after negotiating the North Circular.

Once there, though, the building was fine, with plenty of space and accessible toilets. My only complaints were the price of refreshments and the higgledy-piggledy lay-out. If you have mobility problems, you shouldn't have to go from one side of the exhibition to the other looking for an aid.

Powered wheelchairs

"Should I buy a manual or powered wheelchair?" is a question many people face when they are unsure of their future needs. A power-assisted manual chair could be the answer.

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DN's intrepid Paul Smith found the Quartz "most relaxing"

attached to the pack and looped round a push handle. Simple, but effective. With a 10 mile range, the power pack fits most makes of wheelchair and handles easily. Pack plus battery weighs 28 lbs. £495. Tel: (0787) 478430.

If you are looking for something a bit more refined, Sunrise Medical has the Powertec F16, launched in June. It combines the Suntec SX

wheelchair and a separate power unit with user control. The controller has a battery gauge, speed control and horn. From £2,495. A separate powerpack and controller will soon be available for the Quickie RX and Quickie 2 wheelchairs. About £1,800. For your nearest dealer, contact Sunrise Medical, tel: (0384) 480480.

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most relaxing. Electronic controls allow the user to set the inclination of the seat, back and leg-rests. About £6,500. Tel: (0892) 750686.

For me, the star of the show was the Explorer (no relation to the Nesbit Evans one), an indoor/outdoor chair imported from Italy by the Wheelchair Corporation. It gives you independence going up and down stairs, and is said to cope with any kind of step or staircase. The tracks are like a tank's, operate independently, and allow easy manoeuvring with four points of support all the time. Stairs may no longer restrict you, but the price may: £12,000 for a person up to 80 kg, £650 more if over 80 kg. Tel: 081-954 5848.

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naidex '93

DN's experts report from Wembley



Exciting innovation and friendly persuaders - they were all there. "Star of the show" Explorer powerchair in action (left) while Ford's shiny robot close circuits GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

most relaxing. Electronic controls allow the user to set the inclination of the seat, back and leg-rests. About £6,500. Tel: (0892) 750686.

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Manual wheelchairs

In case you did not see the June DN, the Green Tyre Company believes it has the answer to wheelchair punctures: tyres made from micro-cellular polyurethane, which are guaranteed puncture-proof and maintenance-free. They are also at least 20 per cent lighter and longer lasting than normal rubber tyres. Introductory price of £12.50 each. Tel: (0642) 223322.

Being a manual wheelchair user, I was delighted to see such a range of chairs on show. But many people had their dream come true only to have it turned back into a dream when they learned the price.

Best value for money had to be Shine Medical, importing

from Taiwan. They had manual wheelchairs starting at £160 for a standard chair and £235 for a lightweight one. Tel: (0733) 332377.

Remploy has just extended its range to include a self-propelled Stowaway SP with quick-release wheels. Minus

wheels, this lightweight, easily-foldable chair weighs just 13lbs. £425. Tel: (0742) 757631.

Among several lightweight sports chairs was Action Technology's FX, launched at the Mobility Roadshow by EPC (Equipment for the Physically Challenged).

It is the first chair I have seen with a rigid seat. The moulded-in wheel alignment guarantees perfect tracking and the carbon fibre frame ensures the chair is light. All in all, a good looking, high performance chair. £1,850.

Action's Top End T3 high performance court chair, also by EPC, was a real eye catcher. With only three wheels (the single front wheel gives amazing turning space and less roll resistance), plus its light weight, this chair is built for speed. About £1,500. Tel: (0252) 547939.

Scooters

The three-wheel scooter by Rova makes a welcome return to Naidex, produced by a company with the same name, but which is new to disability equipment. The scooter is the same too. It has front-wheel drive, can mount 4in kerbs, has a range of up to 16 miles, and dismantles easily into three sections. Twin rear-wheel motors will be added soon to improve hill and kerb climbing. From £1,295. Tel: (0284) 703703.

Walking aids

Many examples were on show, but few were new.

Two add-ons to the Uniscan range of walking frames caught my eye. A tray in rigid melamine, heat and stain resistant, comes with a non-slip

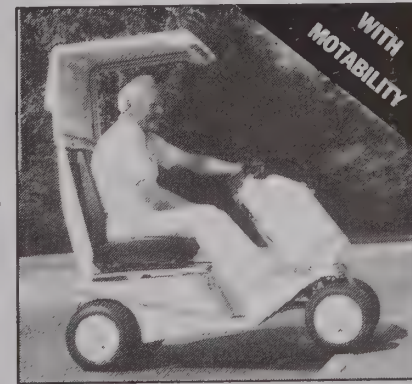
Continued on page 22

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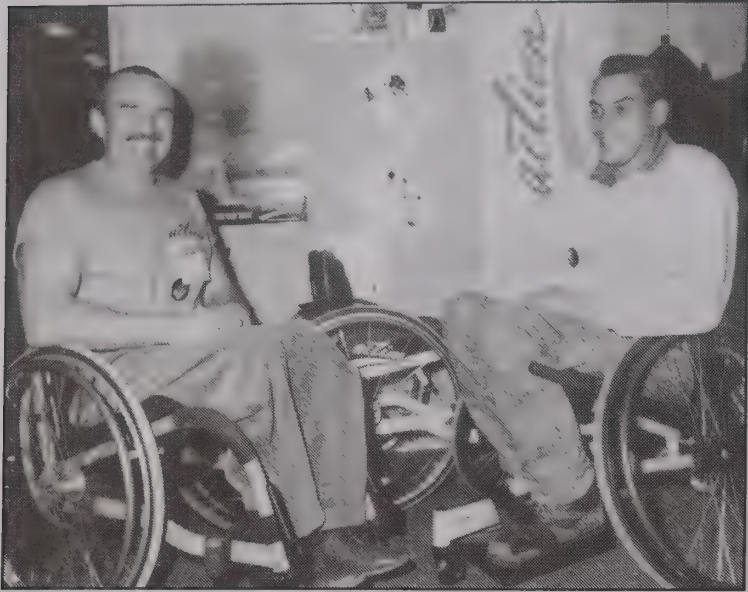
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DN 11/93



Paralympic gold medallist John Harris in the FX (left) and world class tennis player Peter Norfolk in the Top End T3

Continued from page 21
Dycem mat. £18.50 (inc p&p). And a forearm attachment could be useful for people who need higher support. £65. Basic frame in five sizes, £130. Tel: (0268) 419288.

Novel ideas

A motorised standing frame, the Grillo, first seen tootling round the Mobility Roadshow (DN, July), will attract people who want to get about the house or office standing up. It has a compact platform and adjustable standing frame. The steel chassis, mounted on three wheels, manoeuvres well. The motorised front wheel is capable of 5kph and the battery lasts up to three hours (continuous use). £1,650 to £1,900. Gerald Simonds Healthcare, tel: (0296) 436557.

The Shadow Mono-Ski Chair also made its first appearance on the Gerald Simonds stand. Designed by Jim Martinson, a Vietnam vet-

eran, double amputee and champion skier, it is made in the United States by Quickie Designs, a division of Sunrise Medical. £1,895, not including the ski, which can often be



Shadow Mono-Ski Chair

bought singly from ski suppliers, according to a Sunrise Medical rep. Tel: (0296) 436557.

Paul Smith is development co-ordinator for the Disability Information Service for Hertfordshire.

IN THE HOME

'Some of the prices made me reel'

by Margaret Gilbert

Wembley Conference Centre was not easy to find, and parking at £6 seems excessive. However, once there, the arrangements for parking and access for people with disabilities were good.

Disappointingly, there was little new on the home front. Perhaps we can now hope that prices will fall, since we are so often told that high prices are accounted for by research and development.

The Disabled Living Foundation provided a very useful service in pointing people to the right stands for their needs. Tel: 071-289 6111.

The Benefits Agency had many useful leaflets. Ring Freephone (0800) 882 200 for your enquiries, or (0645) 540 000 (local rate) to order the master catalogue of information leaflets to help you through the maze of legislation. Guides to the Community Care Act, the Children Act and Women's Health Services are available from BAPS, Health Publications Unit, Heywood Stores, Manchester Road, Heywood, Lancs OL10 2PZ.

Bathing and lifting

Some of the prices for larger hoists and assisting baths made me reel. But the Euro rules on lifting and handling, which



Brian Dickinson gets lift-off on Arjo's Maxilift and ... see p24

The bath can be filled before you get on to the laying board and are lowered into the water, so much more comfortable than the systems which fill up around you once you are undressed. Tel: 081-771 2147. (NB If you are adapting a bathroom, VAT relief is only repayable if the builder doing the work is VAT registered.)

Aidapt will be the agents for the Beta-Stand chair and bed lift, designed by a husband whose wife has multiple sclerosis. Their new lifting

Centromed has also introduced a mattress which, working on pumped air flow, enables people to shift their own position from side-to-side in bed, relieving pressure. £750. Tel: (0233) 500550.

Kitchens

Helpful staff on the Electricity Association stand were showing a Zanussi washing machine with braille controls and audio cassette explaining operation, £460, and free booklets on Lighting and Low Vision and



Janice Hacker, from Greenwich, tried out Centromed's mattress variator (leg raiser on right)

Britain accepted this year, are clear and will put pressure on social services and health departments to provide these things.

The Arjo hoists, particularly the Maxilift (£2,685-£4,500), are beautifully designed and well thought out, even to lifting people from the floor, and the Sara (£2,200), which brings people into standing position, enables easy access to adjust clothing and change incontinence pads. Tel: (0452) 500200.

The Thune 5500 High/Low Bath from Aidapt Bathrooms is competitively priced at £5,130.

device enables her to sit on the sofa and pull herself up to standing with minimum assistance. £89.75. Tel: (0222) 691130.

Bedrooms

Centromed were featuring their mattress variator, which transforms any domestic bed into an efficient system for raising people into sitting without any lifting, and the leg raiser, which does the same for legs. It means many people can remain independent getting in and out of bed. £330 and £375.

Making Life Easier. A wonderful small booklet of "useful addresses" for specialised controls included a man who makes braille controls for pressure cookers, and details of a free loan video on adapted controls, control panels and plugs. Tel: 071-344 5776

British Gas was advertising its free advisory service on adaptations (ring your local Gas showroom) and showing two new products which have been developed by Birmingham University's Gerontology Unit

Continued on page 23

The Bathmaster

An "Innovation in Bath Lifts"

- Value for money
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- Simple to use
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DN05

CHILDREN

Get up and go equipment which grows with you

by Jane Joester

As usual I was on the lookout for new and innovative things and for improvements to useful equipment.

Radcliffe Rehabilitation Services was showing Kid-Kart, newly imported from the USA. Yet another special pushchair, but this one has very useful features. The mobility base is lightweight, has a tilt-in-space facility and is easy to fold.

Two systems are sold to go with it (though it is supposed to accommodate other seating systems). One model is a basic seat designed for the mildly involved child.

The other is a modular positioning system, including contoured seat cushion, modular back support with adjustable lateral supports and harness. It grows with the child, up to their teens. £839 to £1,330. Tel: (0295) 712262.

Newton Products have a bright red fibreglass buggy developed by the Bath Institute of Medical Engineering. Parents of cp children wanted powered mobility that looked like a toy, not a wheelchair. The buggy comes in two sizes covering 2 to 9 years. Children sit astride, holding a bar, and steer with a joystick. There are adjustable surfaces for thoracic support, fully adjustable foot-

plates, and knee blocks on the larger version. Under £1,000. Tel: 021-783 6081.

I have used the Quest Posture Control Walker ("back walker") with many children and young adults and always been impressed with the improvement in their walking. Now forearm gutters are available (for children unable to push on their hands), £52.50, and hip location pads, £37.50. Tel: (0952) 463050.

I was also pleased to see the chest pad on Quest's Colt

Sitting comfortably

Jenx had Multi-Chairs in three overlapping sizes, seat lengths ranging from 165mm to 460mm. Multi-functional, these chairs have a fully adjustable seat angle and pneumatic rise and fall, so the chair can be used at many heights. £585 to £645.

Jenx' Multi-grip system gives support at hips, trunk and head, and there is a knee block, abduction pad, chest pad and tray. Adjustments are now possible with an Allen key, replac-



Jonathan Bowen from Chelmsford liked the Kid-Kart tray

GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

trike, which seems to give a good range of angled movement to fit most children. £16.

ing the large knobs which were often tampered with!

The Liora Infant Stander,



Amy Freeborn and her mum try out Newton's new buggy

for ages 9 months to 6 years, can be used angled or vertical, and also features the Multi-grip system. £438 plus delivery charge. Tel: (0742) 853376.

Quest's therapy benches could be used at home or school to give a corrective sitting position, allowing freer upper body use. Accessories include sacral and hip pads and knee blocks. From £98.80.

Like many therapists, I have wanted to try a saddle seat in a wheelchair with children with severe disability. The Sapphire Seating System by ARCOS inhibits spasm by hip abduction and flexion, and

flexion of knees and ankles. Bulky and heavy, but it may be the only seat which gives necessary stability to the hard-to-seat, totally involved child while aiding some basic functions. £17.50 to £19.75. Tel: (0684) 576795.

The newest version of RBF Products' Spa controller chair is worth mentioning for its versatility. Seat and armrest heights are adjustable, so are arm widths and head wing angles. £658. Tel: (0702) 527401.

Jane Joester is therapy co-ordinator at the Spastics Society's Mel-dreth Manor School.

Continued from page 22

and tested by 4,500 Birmingham elders. Both been awarded the Owl Mark: the Valor Favourite fire with "user friendly" controls, and the Parkinson Cowan Lyric 50G cooker. Consult the advisory service first as you may be able to adapt your existing appliances with extended controls, and "bump-ons" to magnify the numbers.

Bills can be issued on tape, to text telephones, and in enlarged print. Contact the GasCare Register at your local office.

The star of the show for me was Gaswatch from Watchman Safety Systems, an automatic gas "fusebox", which will shut off the supply if a pan boils over, or boils dry, or a central heating system fails to ignite. An invaluable method of safe-guarding yourself if you are forgetful, have epilepsy or cannot reach the main controls. The control can be re-set easily. From £210. Tel: (0483) 37940.

Clothes

Rolli-Moden, from Germany, had high quality clothes for wheelchair users. Trousers have high backs so the waistband sits level. At £43.60 for

jeans they are not cheap, but I spoke to a man who was wearing a pair of their machine washable cords he had had for three years and they looked like new.

The range also includes raincoats, warm leg-bags, pushing gloves, dinner suits, black leather jeans, and shoes with no internal pressure points for people who have lost sensation. Tel: (0227) 765101.

... and two charities

Finally, of all the stands from voluntary and statutory agencies, I want to mention two.

Arthritis Care has a range of leaflets, including *Our Relationships*, *Our Sexuality*, £3, written specifically for younger people, and a free Helpline, (0800) 289170, Monday to Friday 12 noon-4 pm for advice on all aspects of arthritis. Membership is £4. Tel: 071-916 1500.

Care and Repair is an umbrella organisation of Countrywide Home Improvement Services, which offers advice and help to people needing to repair and adapt their own property in order to stay at home. Tel: (0602) 799091.

Margaret Gilbert is manager of Ealing Day Treatment Centre, West London Healthcare Trust.

New Insurance Scheme to Help you "Keep Mobile"

Motorists with disabilities have special requirements when they have an accident and their car has to be repaired. To be deprived of mobility and independence is devastating and is only catered for adequately by Fish Insurance under their "Keep Mobile" scheme.

As Fish Insurance are UK's leading insurer of people with disabilities, with probably more knowledge of the needs of disabled people than any other insurer, you will find many cover improvements built into the policy and not available anywhere else.

- "Keep Mobile" provides free car hire or taxis from day one and immediate repairs may be undertaken anywhere in the UK.
- Medical certificates are not required and high injury cover is given.
- Wheelchairs are covered
- Protected Bonus (no loss of no claims discount in the event of an accident).
- "Keep Mobile" is available on cars and vans modified for disabled passengers.
- Adaptations & modifications are replaced on a new for old basis irrespective of the age of the car which gives much higher write-off claim settlements.
- Cover for any driver over age 21 years.
- "Keep Mobile" is guaranteed to cost 10% less than you comprehensive renewal with your current insurer.

"Keep Mobile" comes with a 7 day "no quibble" money back guarantee.

The service and care that you will receive from Fish Insurance is exceptional and not restricted to cars. They offer many other types of insurance, specially designed for people with disabilities and it is worthwhile sending for their free insurance leaflet.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>'Keep Mobile' Car Insurance for People with Disabilities</p>  <p>fish INSURANCE</p> | <p>Guaranteed to save you money</p> |
| | <p>Provides the widest cover available in the UK</p> |
| | <p>available from M.J. Fish & Co. FREEPOST PRESTON PR2 2BR Tel: (0772) 724442</p> |
| <p>Please send more information on "Keep Mobile" Car Insurance My policy is due for renewal on</p> <p>Name..... Address..... Postcode.....Tel..... DN 11/93</p> | |



Ford's new Mondeo: "finely-styled" and likely to be popular with disabled motorists

MOTORING

Thin pickings for motoring enthusiasts

by Mike Roberts

Only two of the major Motability-committed car makers had stands and these, not surprisingly, were Ford and Vauxhall. Vehicle converters were better represented.

Ford showed an automatic 1.8 Mondeo all in red. As successor to the Sierra, this finely-styled motor car is certain to find a good following amongst disabled motorists. £9,992 (includes 12 per cent discount to all disabled drivers), plus VAT, delivery and number plates. Tel: (0628) 895410.

An automatic version of the

ever popular Escort is still awaited. The latest forecast is "early 1994", with Ford insisting the long wait is warranted to ensure a satisfactory marriage of the new engine and the constantly variable transmission. It is a shame that many Ford owner-devotees are having to hang on for so long.

Ford shared a big stand with Steering Developments and Gowrings Mobility.

Gowrings announced the Chairman Escort upgrade. It has better vision with more glass on the sides, achieved, they claim, without compromising safety and strength. The sliding windows are also improved.

Gowrings is widening its range of conversions to include Renault's Extra and Daihatsu's Hi Jet. It talks of entering the "people-carrier" market by 1994. Tel: (0635) 871502.

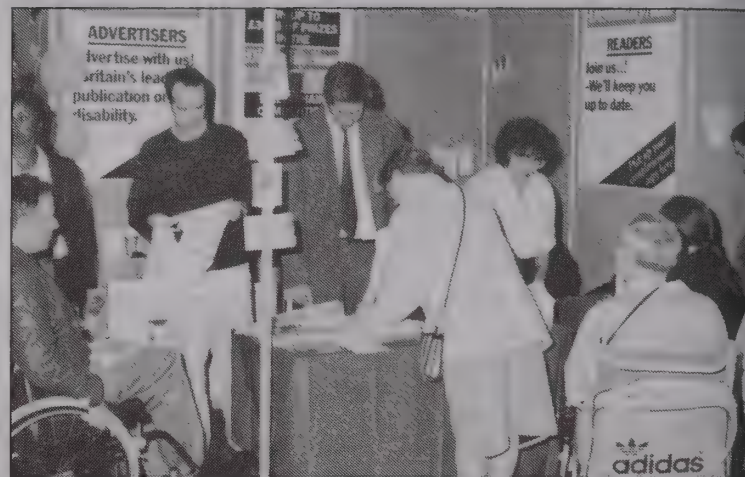
Vauxhall was showing its new Mobility Video, which is

being distributed to all its main dealers and to disability organisations. Disabled would-be

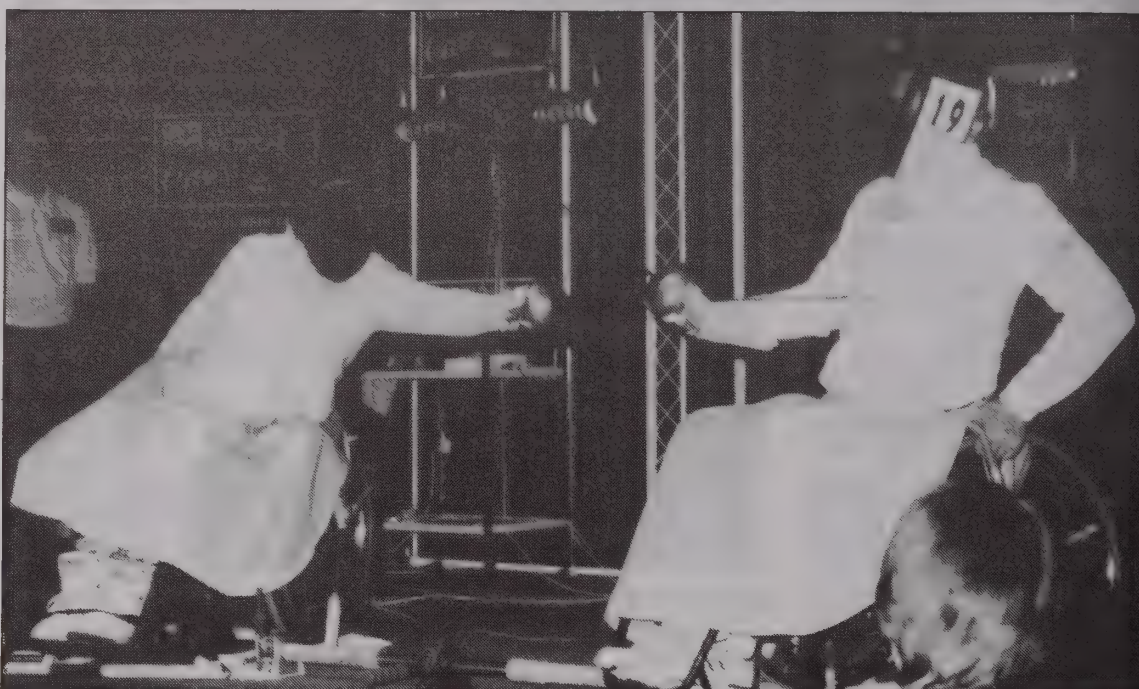
motorists can receive a useful showroom introduction to what life on the road can be like. Tel: (0582) 861888.

NB: The Motor Show, Earl's Court, London, 22-31 October!

Microtech news from Naidex, plus a report on the Micros for Special Needs exhibition, will be in the December issue.



Heads down, balloons gone, on the DN stand Wednesday pm. (From left) Tim Russell, Richard Gresham, Mary Wilkinson



Got you! John Richardson scores a point against Brian Dickinson in an exciting fencing demonstration on the Sunrise Medical stand. If you would like to take up wheelchair fencing, contact Brian Dickinson, 20 Preston New Road, Blackpool FY4 4HQ, tel: (0253) 693037.

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DN 11/93

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THE SEATING PEOPLE

... NEWS QUIZ ... Answers page 31

- Which city was picked to host the Olympic Games in the year 2000?
Which racist political party won a council seat in London?
Which disability charity changed its logo?
Where did an earthquake kill thousands of people?
Which county council banned fox hunting?
How old is actress Rula Lenska?
7. What did OMOV stand for at the Labour Party conference?
8. Which airline is refusing to fly Salman Rushdie?
9. In which country were rebel MPs forcibly removed from parliament?
10. Which transport network lifted its ban on wheelchair passengers?

October winner

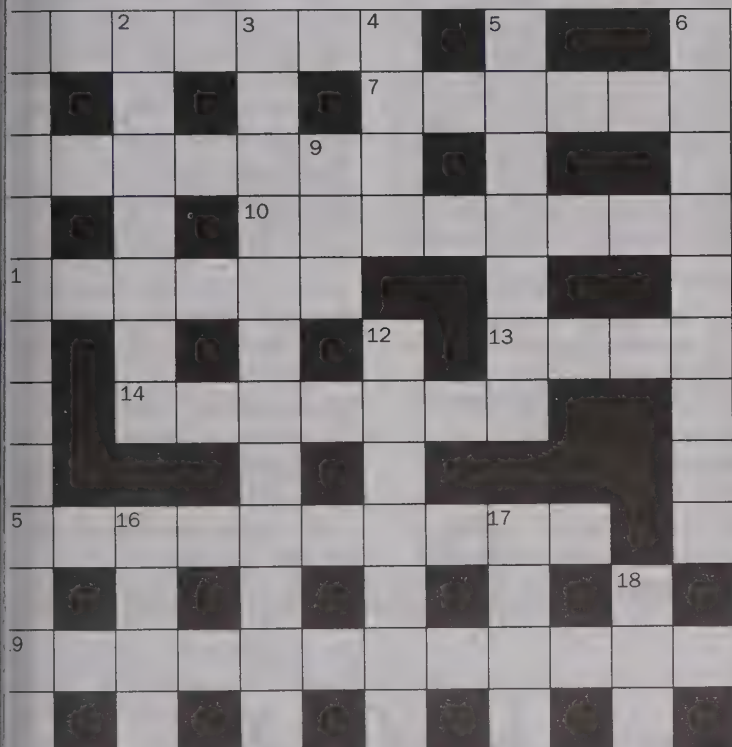
The £10 prize goes to R. Stacey of Sheffield. As Martin Parry (*far right*) cuts the celebration cake he is saying: "Pretend you haven't noticed, but this cake is tougher than the Box-all". Thanks to all who entered.



DN's crossword

Answers page 31

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

1. Hurt (7)
2. Number in a football team (6)
3. One of Manchester United 7 across (7)
4. Small furry animal (8)
5. Slang for mad person (6)
6. Change direction (4)
7. See rail (anag)
8. Fading or transitory (10)
9. They encourage sports players (12)

DOWN

1. Poor bladder control (12)
2. Caretaker (7)
3. South American city (3,2,7)
4. Expensive (4)
5. Decide (7)
6. Estimate too low (9)
7. Neither one — the other (3)
8. Stole (7)
9. So be it (4)
10. Naked (4)
11. Attempt (3)

Win a £10 prize

Arts consultant Bill Kirby points out the finer points of a cockerel on a touch tour of the Tate to launch Europe's first access guide to galleries and museums for blind and visually impaired people.*

What could he be musing as he flexes his digits?

Answers please to DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, by 4 November.

*Discovering Museums is produced by the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) and HMSO. It covers museums and galleries throughout the UK, with subjects ranging from art and science to fishing, farming and dog collars. £9.95. From RNIB customer services, tel: (0733) 371555. Also available at HMSO bookshops or mail order from HMSO Publications Centre, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT. Credit card orders, tel: 071-873 9090.

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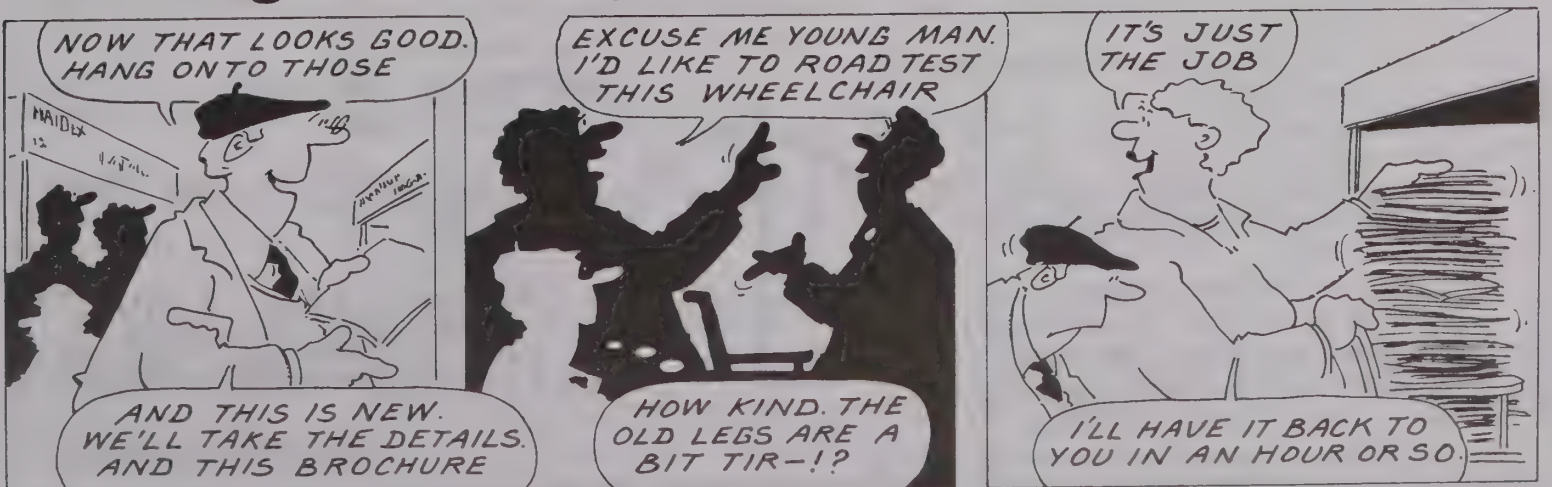


HAVE A GOOD HOL?

Have you just returned from holiday or are you getting ready to go somewhere nice? If you've had a super time somewhere, why not let other disabled readers know about it by writing an article for DN's holidays special, appearing in the January issue?

In the first instance, please send a brief letter to Mary Wilkinson, the Editor, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

The Doings of Dan Nugent ('DN' to his friends) by Rigby



Share Your Problems

'Utter rubbish, baloney and poppycock!'



Ann Darnbrough, DN. 12 Park Crescent. London W1N 4EQ

"What utter rubbish, baloney and poppycock."

This forthright comment is just one of many in response to Mary's criticism of Conductive Education (CE) in the September column.

Mary wrote: "If able-bodied children were put through the horrors of Conductive Education, parents would be up for child cruelty."

Pamela responded: "I have a six-year-old, intellectually very bright little girl with severe cerebral palsy (cp). Despite what could have been crippling but very necessary surgery, she has, with the help of CE, come back once again."

Pamela also quoted her daughter's psychologist: "It is clear that the progress that Kate has been able to establish has been because of the intensive work and commitment to CE of those around her."

"One would be considerably concerned about Kate being taken out of a system which has succeeded in making her more mobile and independent and has contributed to the psychological security she shows."

"So come on," challenged Pamela, "talk about CE as many parents see it - positively. We know it doesn't suit all children, but many thousands do benefit."

Independence is the aim

Patrick was also compelled to write. "I have yet to see or receive anything but caring, knowledgeable help for my daughter and myself. My

daughter is five-years-old and has severe cp. She has no speech and does little unaided. I say to everyone, please come and see her in a CE class. That would say more than anything I could write. She even tries to sing in Hungarian! She is not striving to achieve 'acceptance', but simply to attain a degree of independence that is her right."

Going it alone

Pauline, another parent, wanted to get over two points. "The first is the implication that parents of disabled children are 'led' by 'professionals' in making decisions about treatment or education. I have not yet met a parent who gained any positive direction from a professional in the run-of-the-mill, educational and medical system with which we all have to grapple."

"Every parent I know has had to educate themselves about their child's disability and the various treatments available."

"To suggest that parents are 'led', and consequently ill-informed, takes much away from them. Thank goodness parents now have opportunities to talk to and inform each other and are not afraid to challenge what advice is given. Parents are better informed now than ever before, and much more in control."

"Secondly, I, and others like me who are learning with and from our children through CE, feel insulted by the implication that we are subjecting our children to 'cruelty'. This is an

outrageous thing to say.

"Based on five years' experience and a tremendous love and respect for my son, I can state categorically that this is not the case. My son has been respected and his individual problems taken into account when following CE programmes."

"Walking has never been the sole objective of CE. Its approach is holistic, looking at the whole child, not just his legs. Children learn that their arms and legs are 'tools' for independent living."

No horrors here

"There are no horrors in CE," concluded Pauline, "just happy, well-adjusted children learning about themselves and their world from a committed and knowledgeable team of people, of which the most important member is the parent."

Thank you Mary, Pamela, Patrick and Pauline (not their real names). It's great to hear such positive views which take the discussion forward.

Also in my September column, I asked you to respond to June, who had asked about readers' experiences of Intermittent Self-Catheterisation (ISC). This is a technique whereby people insert a catheter into the bladder at intervals throughout the day, instead of having an in-dwelling one.

Keith Bowen contacted me with the good news that a new organisation has been set up, the Association of Self-Catheterisers - Unite and Support (ASC-US). The person to contact is Tricia Fleet (telephone number at end).

Tricia speaks from personal experience and with a good deal of acquired knowledge. She recognises just how isolated people with continence problems can become, and how valuable it can be to talk to someone who really understands.

She emphasises that people must be trained to use ISC, and that it is not suitable for

there may be a possibility of straightforward, "freestyle" intercourse.

Unhappily, the onset of incontinence has meant the end of some marriages. One reader, Enid, wrote: "My husband never came near me after I had the catheter fitted."

Wonderfully, she is now looking forward to another relationship, but needs advice on whether she will be able to have a normal sex life. It was good to be able to tell her that in recent years there has been much more positive attitude to these practical problems, and other disabled people offer positive proof that such difficulties can be overcome.

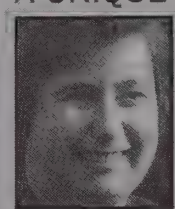
Gay or lesbian?

I have said before that when we discuss relationships, they always seem to focus on heterosexual couples. In response, I had some interesting information from Richard Kirker of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. Richard hopes readers will be interested in the Movement's counselling helpline (there's a newsletter and a books-by-post service too). I would certainly be glad to hear about the experiences of disabled gays and lesbians, so please write.

Tricia Fleet, ASC-US, tel: (0603) 57155. Ring between 7pm-8pm on weekdays only. Keith Bowen, tel/fax: (0532) 872068.

Richard Kirker, Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London E2 6HG, tel: 071-739 1249. Counselling helpline, tel: 071-587 1235.

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The DN telephone counsellor, Lin Berwick, is a psycho-therapeutic

counsellor, fully accredited Methodist local preacher, and qualified homeopath.

Disabled herself, she can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems.

Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (0708) 477582. DN's helpline is sponsored by The Wellcome Foundation Limited.

everybody. Keith Bowen would also be glad to advise readers.

A number of people asked if it was possible to have sexual intercourse while wearing a catheter. The informal advice I was given is that it can be done, irrespective of who wears the catheter.

For people who can use ISC,



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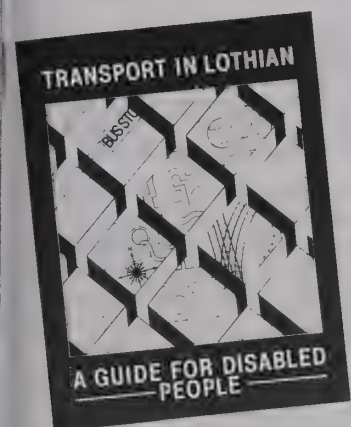
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A warm welcome awaits all our guests old and new

INFO

Starting a Disability Information Service? Disability West Midlands has produced a helpful factsheet. For a copy of *Basic Publications for a Disability Information Service*, send an 8p SAE to Disability West Midlands, Moseley Hall Hospital, Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8JL.

Incontact, the organisation for people with bladder and bowel problems, has launched a quarterly newsletter. For a free copy, send an A4 SAE to Helen White, Incontact, The Dene Centre, Castles Farm Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE31PH.



Transport in Lothian, produced by the Regional Council and Disability Scotland, is available from Traveline, Lothian Regional Council, 24 St Giles Street, Edinburgh EH1 1PT, tel: 031-225 3858.

Access to Primary Health Care Practitioners is a new directory for disabled people in Brent, North Kensington and North Westminster. Contents include parking spaces, public transport and access to premises. Collect a copy from local health centres, citizens advice bureaux, libraries and town halls. Braille and tape versions available.

Negotiating the Maze is a guide to National Vocational Qualifications for small voluntary organisations. Published by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). £16.50. From NCVO Publications, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London N1 9LR.

The You & Me video features the You & Me system of yoga using sound, colour and whole-body movement. Aimed at practitioners, therapists, teachers, carers and parents. £40 (including p&p). Contact You & Me Yoga Centre, The Cottage, Burton-in-Kendal, Carnforth, Lancashire LA6 1ND.

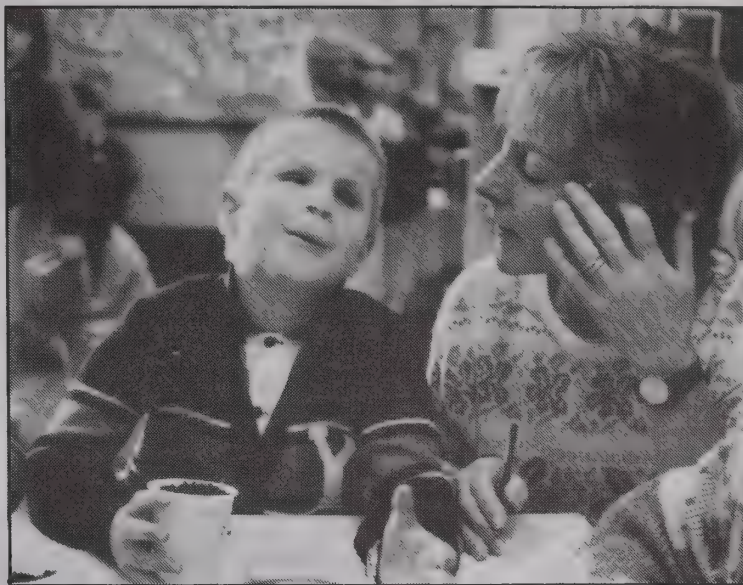
Social Security Benefits: A Guide for Blind and Partially Sighted People, is now available on tape. Free from RNIB Customer Services, tel: (0345) 023153.

Higher Education and Disability, a guide to higher education for people with disabilities. £1.50 to individual students, £5 to professionals. Contact Louise Smith at Skill, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA.

HAPA, the Handicapped Adventure Playground Association, has just published the latest issue of the *HAPA Journal*. Annual subscription is £5 a year. Contact HAPA at Fulham Palace Road, Bishop's Avenue, London SW6 6EA, tel: 071-731 1435.

People First, the organisation of people with learning difficulties, is setting up a lesbian, gay and bisexual support group in London. Contact Tim Hart at People First, 207-215 Kings Cross Road, London WC1X 9DB, tel: 071-713 6400.

School Leavers, a video for deaf school leavers, has been produced by the London Deaf



The World in Our Hands, is a new series of five videos from the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB). The programmes are designed for parents who have recently been told their baby is blind and offer support and encouragement. From £15. For further details, contact the RNIB at 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA.

Access Project (LDAP). Free to schools, £35 to others. From LDAP, 25 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5BN.

Legal Services for Voluntary Organisations, published by the NCVO, gives a list of solicitors providing legal

advice. £8.25. From NCVO Publications at Regents Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London N1 9RL.

Check Your Tax is a new booklet from Help the Aged. Free from Help the Aged shops or send a large SAE to Tax, The Information Department, Help the Aged, St James' Walk, London EC1R 0BE.

Signalong PSE, is a new signing manual for anyone teaching personal and social education. Based on British sign language. £10 (inc. p&p). Contact Signalong at 129 Rochester Road, Burham, Rochester ME1 3SG, tel: (0634) 683846.

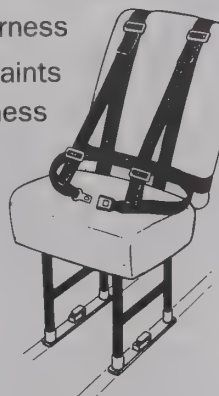
Help Yourself Directory, 3rd edition, covers voluntary and statutory self-help, advisory and support groups in Merseyside. Useful for professionals and disabled people. £7.50. Contact the Disablement Resource Unit, tel: 051-709 0990.

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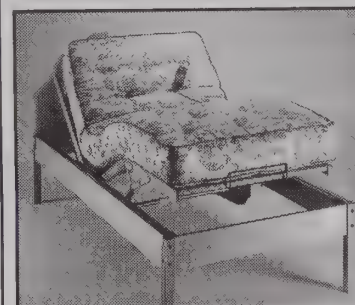


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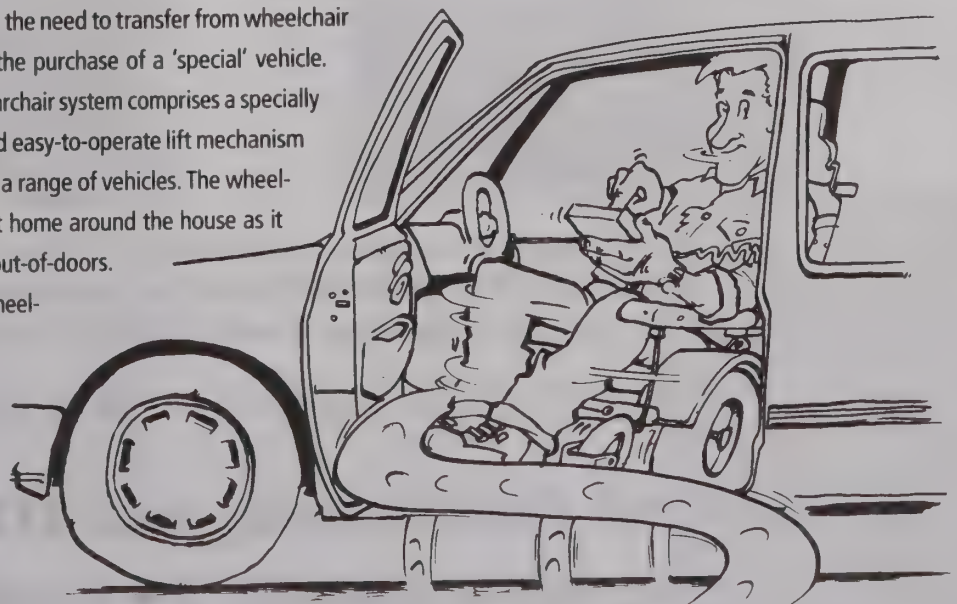
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WHAT'S ON

The Mental Health Act 1983: Time for Change? 11-12 November. Forte Crest, Bloomsbury. A conference to mark the tenth anniversary of the Mental Health Act 1983. Contact Ms Lee Wilding, Conference Office, tel: 071-919 3170.

Ageing with Disability. 12-13 November. The Spastics Society, Bristol. For people who were born with a disability and are about to retire. £30. Tel: (0272) 288153.

Raising the Odds for Charities, a conference on the national lottery. On 16 November in London. Contact Dave Leggett, Economics Policy Team, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, tel: 071-713 6161 ext. 2199.

Voluntary Sector Lobby Conference. 19 November. London. Contact Eva Bennett, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, tel: 071-713 6161 ext. 2213.

Controversies in Cerebral Palsy. 19-20 November. Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. £90 for doctors, £45 for other professionals. Contact The Trengweath Trust Coordinator, c/o Trengweath School, Hartley Road, Plymouth, Devon PL3 5LP, tel: (0752) 770978.

Elderly Drivers. A seminar for road safety officers and professionals working with older people. 24 November. Banstead Mobility Centre. £35. Contact Banstead Mobility Centre, Damson Way, Orchard Hill, Queen Mary's Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4NR, tel: 081-770 1151.

Towards a UK Coalition on Deaf-Blindness. 26-27 November. Royal Angus Thistle Hotel, Birmingham. A conference for professionals on provision for deaf-blind people. Contact Ann Barnett, National Deaf-Blind League, tel: (0733) 573511.

Disability Benefits Training. A series of courses running from November 1993 to January 1994. London. Contact Training & Membership Worker, Disability Alliance ERA, 1st Floor, Universal House, 88-94 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA, tel: 071-247 8776 11am-3pm.

A Guide to the Banstead Mobility Centre. 1 December. Two hour presentation, including a guided tour. Free. Contact Dr Barbara Simms, Banstead Mobility Centre, tel: 081-770 1151.

Castle Priory. Introduction to the Portage Teaching Materials. 3-5 December. £264.38 (inc.VAT). Contact Castle Priory, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0HE, tel: (0491) 837551.

The Crossroads Club is looking for donations to fund a social club for people with learning difficulties from Witney and the surrounding area. If you can help, send your donation to the Treasurer, The Crossroads Club, 46 Curbridge Road, Witney, Oxon OX8 7JR.

DIAL, Dorset's Disability Information and Advice Line, is setting up a library of tapes and compact discs for disabled people. Please send

HELP!

any spare tapes or CDs to DIAL, 54 Lagland Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1QG.

Barnardo's is looking for people in South Wales, who have been disabled as a result of road accidents, and would be willing to talk to young offenders involved in car crime. If you can help, contact Chris Dunstall, tel: (0222) 221906.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

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We are looking for a Programme Manager to ensure trainees get the most out of Fast-Track and to be responsible for day to day management and co-ordination of the scheme.

You will need an understanding of disability issues, good communication skills, the ability to organise and prioritise your work and skills in financial record keeping and management. Experience of graduate recruitment and development would be helpful.

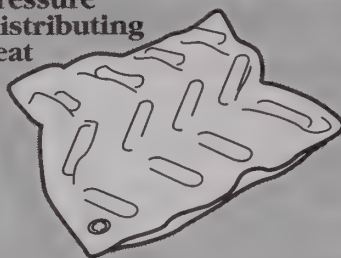
Completed applications should be returned by Monday 15 November.

For further details please contact Fast-Track, The Spastics Society, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ. Tel: 071-387 9571. Fax: 071-388 9775. We welcome applications from people with disabilities.

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37-YEAR-OLD DISABLED WOMAN with a well developed sense of humour, red-green politics, a public-sector job/career and an enthusiasm for creative writing, seeks self-aware, sensitive, ideologically sound man (disabled or non-disabled) who is also looking for a special but non-claustrophobic relationship. Sussex/South coast/ South of London. Box No. 600.

DISABLED FEMALE, 28, paraplegic due to accident. Completely independent (car, good job and own flat), would like to meet able-bodied or partially disabled male for friendship. Preferably non-smoker, 28-35. Box No. 601.

ATTRACTIVE FEMALE, francophile, disabled (wheelchair user), aged 22, would like to meet kind, caring and non-chauvinist Frenchman who can also make me laugh. Age 18-28. Must live in Avon area. Photo appreciated. Box No. 602.

CHARISMATIC 60-YEAR-OLD, poet/painter, 2 cars, 4 wheelchairs, non-walker, looks for younger single woman for marriage possibility. I'm as free as a bird! Very lonely, non-smoker, photo a must. You 30-year-olds take note! Box No. 603.

FUN LOVING MALE, 23, wheelchair user, non-smoker, with interests in music, theatre, pubs - will try anything once! Seeks female, 20-25, with similar interests (own transport) for short term or long term relationship. Surrey area. Box No. 604.

FEMALE, 40, with cerebral palsy/partially deaf, would like to correspond with males aged 40-44 with similar interests. Must be caring and understanding, and be able to drive a distance. Hobbies include dining out, cinema, horse riding and walking. Must live in the Wiltshire/Hampshire area. Box No. 605.

There is a short waiting list for Find-A-Friend ads. Do not worry if your advert is not in immediately, it will probably appear next month.

PEN FRIENDS WANTED (all welcome) by a middle-aged gay (bi) male, with a disability (insanity and a wheelchair). Interests include living (most of the time), radio (no TV), music and disability/civil rights (challenging things just for the hell). I'm offering a sense of humour, confidentiality, sincerity and a reply. Box No. 606.

WANT A PEN FRIEND IN SOUTH AFRICA? Then join Pen-friends for the Disabled, a South African international correspondence club. Write to Mr Gino Branca, Pen-friends for the Disabled, 11 Rosedon Road, Rondebosch East, 7764, Republic of South Africa. Non-disabled members also welcome.

MY NAME IS MICHAEL. I am 40. I am a disabled person in a wheelchair. I would like a close relationship with an able-bodied female, 25-35. Box No. 607.

To reply to a Find-A-Friend indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 2.

MOVES

Maureen O'Neill is the new director of Age Concern Scotland. **Bob Findlay** is now deputy chair of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP). **Carol Harris** is the new editor of *Therapy Weekly*.

HOLIDAYS

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Mar Y Sol - Tenerife. Wheelchair accessible apartments. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, poolside bar, equipment hire. Ring today for video and cheapest prices on flights.
Algarve - Portugal. Wheelchair friendly luxury villas in Portugal with swimming pools or mini hotel with adapted rooms.
Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraybury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX. Tel: (0753) 685718.

YORKSHIRE DALES
Self-catering cottage adapted for wheelchair visitors. Newly converted barn on high moorland, between Pateley Bridge and Grassington. Beautiful views. Sleeps up to 5. Comfortable, well-equipped. Children, dogs welcome.
Phone: (0423) 711747.

SUNNY TENERIFE
Fully Accessible Mar y Sol
"Brilliant" says BBC TV
Holiday Apartments
Brochure: Lynne James Ltd, 7 Overpool Road, Ellesmere Port L66 1JW. (Tel: 051-339 5316)

Winged Fellowship provides respite care for severely physically disabled people and their carers at five UK holiday centres. One-to-one care.
Write/phone for brochure:
Angel House, 20-32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD (tel: 071-833 2594).

January 1994 is DN's special holiday issue. To advertise your holiday accommodation, please contact the Advertisement Manager, Richard Gresham, by 3 December, at Kingslea Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU, tel: 071-252 1362, fax: 071-237 8019.

Disability Now is not responsible for the claims made in the advertisements it prints. Readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

"Hacienda-el-Miguel" the Costa Blanca. Disabled Friendly Holiday Apartment for up to 6. 93 prices for 94. Ring or write soon to avoid disappointment. Mick Benford, Holiben, 6 Chaston Place, Kettering, Northants NN16 9TF. Tel: (0536) 523593.

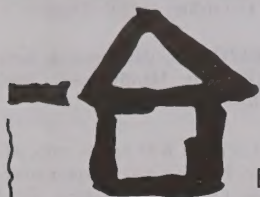
FRIENDSHIP AGENCIES

Dates
36 Park Grove for the Social
Edgware Disabled contacts
Middlesex A better life provided.
HA8 7SJ (All areas)



For people with disabilities.
Be assertive and join Handicate.
The Wellington Centre
52 Chevallier Street
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB.
Telephone: (0473) 226950

Anybody Any Age Able-bodied or Disabled. Choose Your Own Ideal Relationship. **Mutual Essential Links,** 1 Weir Street, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5HL. Tel. 0606 49093 (24hrs).



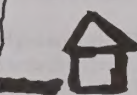
WHHA is working towards
Equal Opportunities and
welcomes applications from

all sections of the community.

We are a progressive organisation providing an extensive housing service across North London.

As part of our commitment to equal opportunities we are seeking to appoint disabled people who are currently under-represented in the Association.

If you would like more information on WHHA, please contact Sue Crofton, Personnel Manager, WHHA, 2 Grangeway, London NW6 2BW, Tel: 071-625 0261 ext. 202.



**WEST HAMPSTEAD
HOUSING ASSOCIATION**

MOBILITY/SALES PERSON/ADVISOR

Person to carry out assessments on handicapped and elderly. Ex-selling and demonstration skills required. Dedication; sincerity; caring with integrity essential. Superior range of products with a variety to suit all aspects of mobility. Persons required for the following areas:

Cambridgeshire, Humberside, North Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Norfolk, South Yorkshire.

Please apply in strict confidence to Box No with C.V. Two references will be required. Reply to Box No KP100 Kingslea Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU.

Centre Manager
Scill Project -
Disability Resource Centre
£19,722-£21,345



Sutton

Scill Project is a new centre offering people with a physical or sensory disability aged between 16 and 65 opportunities for educational and leisure activities. The centre will be managed for the Local Authority by its own committee.

You will have responsibility for all paid and voluntary staff at the centre and for organisation of all its activities.

You will need the ability to organise and manage a wide and flexible range of activities, provide advice and support to staff on disability issues and have an understanding of budget control.

You will need a professional qualification plus one year's experience (in either a paid or voluntary capacity) with physical and/or sensory impaired people including staff supervision. If you are not qualified you will require at least 3 years' experience in the above.

We welcome job applications from all people with disabilities. Our recruitment policy is focused on ability not disability and all applications are considered on merit.

We offer:

* Interest free season ticket loan.

Please quote ref: HSS 108L.

Application forms and further details are available from: Housing & Social Services Personnel, London Borough of Sutton, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1EA. Tel: 081-770 4580 ansaphone.

Closing Date: 15th November 1993.

All our full-time posts are available for job-share unless otherwise stated. In promoting equal opportunities, Sutton welcomes applicants from all sections of the community and has a Workplace Nursery.

New employees will not be permitted to smoke at work.

BBC ENGINEERING

Work Experience Opportunities For People with Disabilities

Following the success of previous schemes, the BBC's Engineering division is pleased to once again offer a number of subsidised work experience placements for people with disabilities.

The placements cover a range of skill areas and will be based within various Engineering departments at different locations around the country. Each placement will be for a period of up to 12 weeks and it is anticipated that they will commence on the 17th January 1993 or thereabouts.

The opportunities on offer are as follows:

| Placement on offer | Department | Location |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Computer Assistant | Engineering Information Technology | White City/West London |
| Finance Assistant | Engineering Finance Dept. | White City/West London |
| Drawing Office Assistant | Transmission Drawing Office | Warwick/West Midlands |
| Site Development Assistant | Site Development Section, Transmission | Warwick/West Midlands |

Although this is a work experience scheme the selected trainees will need to be numerate and literate, have an interest in broadcasting or administration, and the ability to work as part of a team. Some of the above placements require additional skills and abilities and these are outlined in the information pack. Candidates will also have to satisfy a selection process. Please note, however, that only people with disabilities will be considered for these placements.

For an information pack and an application form contact (quote ref. 13582/DI) BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, PO Box 7000, London W12 7ZY. Tel: 081-749 7000 Minicom 081-752 5151. Details are also available on audio cassette if required.

Application forms to be returned by November 10th.

WORKING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

COURSES

HEREWARD COLLEGE

THE NATIONAL COLLEGE FOR STUDENTS WITH PHYSICAL & SENSORY DISABILITIES



Hereward College provides a broad range of general education and vocational courses, as well as a number of Access to Higher Education Courses in the Arts, Sciences & Media, Full Care, nursing, therapy and study support are available.

"Whilst I have been at Hereward I have been living independently with other students in the college bungalow. This has given me a greater sense of freedom and independence

I was very nervous when I first came here but I am far from that now! I have matured a lot and have a more positive outlook on life. I have made a lot more friends inside as well as outside college and been able to socialize a lot more. I had no qualifications when I first came here but now I've got CPVE, GCSE English, and City and Guilds Maths under my belt. I am hoping to come back for the next two years to do a BTEC National Diploma in Business and Finance and eventually to go on to do an office job. Coming to Hereward has been the best decision I have ever made in my life."

Kevin Godkin

For further information contact: MARILYN WATSON (Admissions Officer)

HEREWARD COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION
Bramston Crescent, Tile Hill Lane, Coventry CV4 9SV. Tel: (0203) 461231 Fax: (0203) 694305

A career move to be proud of.

Administration Manager c.£22,500 City

We are a small team with big ambitions. Five people - with you six - who co-ordinate and manage the work of the Employers' Forum on Disability, Britain's only national employers' organisation concerned directly and exclusively with promoting the training and employment of people with disabilities.

As many of the country's leading companies are members of the Forum, we take particular pride in running the organisation on good business lines and we'll expect you to do the same.

Being responsible for all aspects of our finance, personnel and office administration calls for a high level of dedication and organisational ability. You also need an understanding of database packages, book-keeping experience, a working knowledge of spreadsheets and the skill to build a good relationship with our members and associated organisations through your written and spoken contact with them. To add to this, we want you to be smartly presented, socially confident and flexible about your hours.

Too much to ask? We don't think so. The salary and benefits we're offering (including 25 days' holiday), the friendly atmosphere in our office and the satisfaction of knowing your work is genuinely worthwhile should be more than enough to attract the exceptional person we've described.

PA to the Director
c.£17,000 City


The Employers' Forum on Disability is Britain's only national employers' organisation concerned directly and exclusively with promoting the training and employment of people with disabilities. Its activities are co-ordinated and managed by five people. You'll be the sixth.

In such a small team, what you do can make a big difference. By managing her diary and travel arrangements, screening her calls and mail, organising meetings and replying to the more straightforward correspondence, you'll help the Director make the best use of her (over-stretched) time.

As many of the country's leading companies are counted among our members, we take particular pride in running the Forum along good business lines. There can't, therefore, be any doubts about your efficiency or professionalism.

An impressive c.v. must show us that you've the judgement and maturity to work with little supervision and cope with pressure. It should also indicate that you have a good command of English, shorthand/typing speeds of 100/60 wpm, and a thorough knowledge of wp and dtp packages (ideally AppleMac, Microsoft Word and Filemaker).

What can you look forward to in return? An excellent salary and benefits package (including 25 days' holiday), the friendly (smoke-free) atmosphere in our office and the satisfaction of knowing your work is genuinely worthwhile.



EMPLOYERS' FORUM ON DISABILITY
AN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PRINCE OF WELLES ROYALTY GROUP OF DISABILITY

Find out more by sending your c.v. to Sarah Robinson, Employers' Forum on Disability, c/o Midland Bank plc, 3 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6HA. Closing date is Wednesday 3 November 1993.

Interviews will be offered to suitably qualified disabled people, and flexitime will be considered.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Injured
7. Eleven 8. Cantona
10. Dormouse 11. Nutter
13. Veer 14. Realise
15. Evanescent 19. Cheer-leaders


DOWN: 1. Incontinence
2. Janitor 3. Rio de Janeiro
4. Dear 5. Resolve
6. Underrate 9. Nor
12. Pinched 16. Amen
17. Nude 18. Try

NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Sydney 2. The British National Party 3. The Royal National Institute for the Blind 4. India
5. Leicestershire 6. 46
7. One member one vote
8. British Airways 9. Russia
10. London Underground

THE EALING FAMILY HOUSING ASSOCIATION GROUP

At Ealing Family Housing Association, we are taking positive action to ensure skilled disabled people are represented within our organisation. We invite disabled people only to apply for our post of



POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

Senior Administrator
Salary £16,349-£19,437 p.a. inc. LW

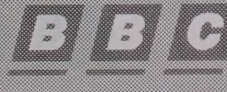


The Ealing Family Housing Association Group is a rapidly expanding housing association currently operating in West London, Reading, Wycombe and Oxford.

As part of the restructuring of its Development Department, the Ealing Family Housing Association Group has created the key post of Senior Administrator. Reporting directly to the Director of Development Services, you will have specific responsibilities for managing all administrative and secretarial work within the Programme and Building divisions of the department. You will initially manage a staff of three. You will need to be self-motivated, responsible and have excellent organisational skills. You will have at least five years' experience in an administrative post of which at least three years have been involved with the supervision of staff. An aptitude for computers and figure work, the ability to deal with a wide range of people and an interest in social housing are also important.

Closing date for returned applications: **5pm 23rd November 1993.**
Interviews will be held on: **2nd December 1993.**

For an application pack, please contact: The Ealing Family Housing Association Group, St James' House, 105-113 Broadway, London W13 9BE. Telephone: 081-579 7434 after 10am. CV's will not be accepted.

The Ealing Family Housing Association Group is an Equal Opportunities Employer and applications are positively welcomed from all people regardless of their age, gender, ethnic origin, marital status, sexuality or disability.



Paid Work Experience/Training Opportunity for People with Disabilities

BBC News & Current Affairs

BBC News and Current Affairs Directorate and the News and Current Affairs Division of the Resources Directorate are offering a number of training/work experience placements for people with disabilities.

News and Current Affairs Directorate and its associated Resources Division are responsible for all national daily news programmes, and wide range of analytical and current affairs programmes on Radio and Television. We employ a large number of journalists, as well as people with the technical expertise necessary to operate television and radio studios, collect and edit videotape and audio tape, and create and output graphics. We also employ a number of support staff, working in Finance and Personnel.

We are looking for people who have demonstrable experience in editorial, technical or administrative work. Our information pack will give you more details but, broadly, you will also need to be numerate and literate, be able to work both as part of a team and on your own initiative, and to have an informed interest in our programmes. Some of the placements require particular skills, abilities or knowledge, and details of these are included in the information pack.

Salary to be negotiated upon placement. The placements will be based in White City/West London, Central London or Westminster. Each placement will be for a duration of approximately four months.

For an application form and information pack contact (quote ref. 13499/DI) **BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, PO Box 7000, London W12 7ZY. Tel: 081-749 7000 Minicom 081-752 5151.**


Application forms to be returned by November 12th.

WORKING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

ADVICE THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

SPECIALIST ADVICE WORKER
BEDWORTH C.A.B.

SCALE 4 - £10,854 - £12,117 pa. Hours - 37.5 week



citizens advice bureau

If you have:

- at least 2 years experience of welfare benefits and employment case work including representation at Tribunals and county court
- some experience of debt work
- advocacy and presentation skills
- ability to support and train other staff, we would like to hear from you.

For further information and an application form, please contact Dorothy Spraggett, Manager, Bedworth C.A.B. High Street, Bedworth, Nuneaton, Warks, CV12 8NG. Tel - 0203 315746. Closing date: 22nd November.


AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

- CONFIDENTIAL • IMPARTIAL • INDEPENDENT • FREE

TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES

please contact the Advertisement Manager, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Tel: 071-252 1362. Fax: 071-237 8019.

Deadlines for December issue: booking by 5 November, camera ready artwork/copy by 8 November.



Disability Now

Yes, I want to support Disability Now with my subscription.

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Please return to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, FREEPOST 17, London W1E 3HU. Cheques should be made payable to Disability Now.

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MOTABILITY DRIVERS CAN DRIVE AWAY A PANDA SELECTA AUTOMATICALLY.



Our no deposit offer makes it even easier to drive away an automatic Fiat Panda Selecta.

To start with, there's the electronic continuously variable transmission (ECVT). It automatically selects the right gear from an infinite number of ratios, giving smoother driving, whatever the road conditions. Then there's the fully independent front suspension, and at the rear, Fiat's unique Omega system absorbs potholes and provides better road handling.

That's not all. The Selecta has a Fully Integrated Robotised Engine (FIRE) which has 30% fewer moving parts and achieves up to 54.3 mpg*.

To you and me that means robot-like reliability and lower running costs.

Costs are further reduced by

contract hiring through Motability Finance, as all scheduled servicing and routine maintenance is included. Or of course you can buy outright or Hire Purchase your new Selecta.

Either way you automatically get the Fiat Aftercare package:

FIAT ANTI-PERFORATION WARRANTY



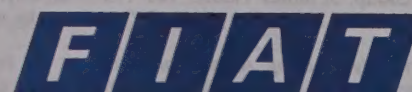
All Pandas come with an 8 year anti-perforation warranty and a 3 year paintwork warranty.

Plus a year's manufacturer's warranty and a year's AA Assurance membership.

To find out more about a car that's big on classic style and small on petrol consumption, call free on 0800 717000 or contact your local dealer.

You'll find a Panda Selecta is the automatic choice.

DESIGNED FOR LIFE



*FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES AS FOLLOWS: URBAN CYCLE 35.8 MPG, CONSTANT 56 MPH - 53.3 MPG, CONSTANT 75 MPH - 38.7 MPG.